**■ SUNDAY BIZ / B1**

**Legacy of '30s entrepreneur who set up 70-year-old shop, and counting**

**■ METRO / A23**

**Tibetan temple in Sta. Mesa offers more than visual appeal**

**■ NEWS / A22**

**Navy troops clash with retired superiors over Fort's housing**

**■ Sunday Inquirer Magazine**

**She shares same name as Imeldific; brother's name is Ferdinand, his fianceé, Imelda**

## RP law firm cries GMA vendetta in HK raid

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST LAW firms—Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles—is crying political vendetta after Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) swooped down on its office in the former British colony upon the request of the Philippine government.

RP LAW/ A10

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, May 21, 2006 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 162 P18 website: www.inq7.net

## Like teflon, GMA criticisms don't stick, say House allies

By Philip C. Tubeza and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

DO YOUR WORST: FILE another impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo and it would be dismissed faster than you could say Hello, Garci.

KAHIT ANONG IBATO NYO KAY CHIEF, WALANG DIDIKIT!
MGA SIPSIP KAYA?

LIKE/ A8

# Palace: No to mining ban

## Foreign owners to stay; industry still government's priority

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAYING A BAN WAS NOT the answer, Malacañang yesterday stood firm on its policy allowing big foreign companies to operate mines despite recommendations to stop Australian mining activities on Rapu-Rapu island and review the country's liberalized mining law.

"Our country is blessed as one of the most highly mineralized countries in the world. It would be a disservice to our people if our full mineral potential is not realized as this is clearly a source of employment and development," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"A ban on mining is not the answer but the standards and safeguards already in place and existing laws must be strictly enforced. Mining remains a priority for development," Bunye stressed.

Bunye issued the statement after the Malacañang-created Rapu-Rapu Factfinding Commission submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday a report recommending the scrapping of the environmental compliance certificate issued to the Australian Lafayette Group and calling for a moratorium on mining on the 5,000-ha island of Rapu-Rapu in Albay.

It also called for a review of the Mining Act, especially its provisions on foreign ownership and management of mining companies and operations.

The commission launched an inquiry following mine tailings spills on Rapu-Rapu.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio said in a radio interview that the commission might have overstepped its bounds when it recommended wholesale changes in the law.

"This is not a matter of whether the mining law should be amended or repealed. We will be guided by inputs

PALACE/ A10

**THE IMAX EXPERIENCE** delights President Arroyo flanked by SM Prime Holdings Inc. vice president Tessie Sy-Coson and its president Hans Sy. Ms Arroyo was the special guest at the inauguration of the country's largest mall, SM Mall of Asia, where she watched through polarized lenses trailers of upcoming movies in the San Miguel Coca Cola IMAX theater. With wraparound digital sound, images of stunning clarity on a screen that's eight stories high, IMAX is touted to be the only way to view a movie in the 21st century. The Mall of Asia is a dream come true for the visionary SM founder Henry Sy. *(Another photo on Page A2.)* LYN RILLON

## Daughter of 1st Sherpa on Everest married Pinoy

By Fe Zamora

A BLUE PEN LIES SOMEWHERE UNDER the snow at the summit of Mt. Everest, left there by Sherpa Tenzing Norgay when he reached the "roof of the world" with Sir Edmund Hillary on May 29, 1953.

The Sherpa's young daughter Nima had given him the blue pen, and he dug a hole in the snow and buried it along with a few biscuits and chocolates as gifts to the mountain, while Hillary planted the British flag.

This is among the memories of her father that Nima, widow of the Filipino graphic artist and book designer Emmanuel "Noli" Galang, treasures.

She was in grade school at the time. "I just gave him the pen. I must have said, 'If you go up to the top, here, bring this,'" she said, chuckling.

Herself a mountaineer in her youth, Nima, now 62, expressed elation that three Filipinos had reached the summit of Everest, duplicating her father's feat 53 years ago.

"This is a great achievement. My congratulations to the mountaineers and to the Filipino people," she said by telephone from Singapore, where she now lives with her son Palden.

Nima said her father was "among the pioneers who opened the routes that these mountaineers now follow."

DAUGHTER/ A10

## Fr. Reuter: Honorary Pinoy still dreams at 90

By Christian V. Esguerra

JESUIT PRIEST FR. JAMES B. REUTER turns 90 years old today and shows no signs of slowing down.

"I don't believe in retiring," the New Jersey native and honorary Filipino tells the INQUIRER in an interview on Friday.

Arguably the only clergyman who really knows and understands media culture in the Philippines, Reuter remains relatively fit, if not for a long-running heart condition that has limited his movements and has forced him to use a cane.

Arthritis has also kept him from indulging in some of his favorite activities—swimming and jogging.

Hard to believe, but every day since the 1960s, he used to walk the entire three-kilometer stretch of Pedro Gil, starting from St. Paul College where he would say Mass, all the way to Xavier House in Sta. Ana, Manila where he lives and holds office.

"I'm known for this, this is my street. If I didn't appear, people in the neighborhood would wonder," Reuter says.

But two years ago, he had to stop his three-kilometer walks and has since found consolation in daily 15-minute exercises on his stationary bike.

Other than health conditions brought on by natural aging, Reuter is very much the same man who's lived in the Philippines since 1938. He's gifted with athleticism, clarity of thought and artistic sensibility.

He has had no heart attacks, no strokes. He went under the knife six times due to a hernia and broke his nose three times because of football and basketball. Suffice it to say, he's as durable as a Navy Seal or even a triathlete.

Reuter, who has made a mark in radio, television and theater, still has big plans for the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media, which he has headed since the 1960s.

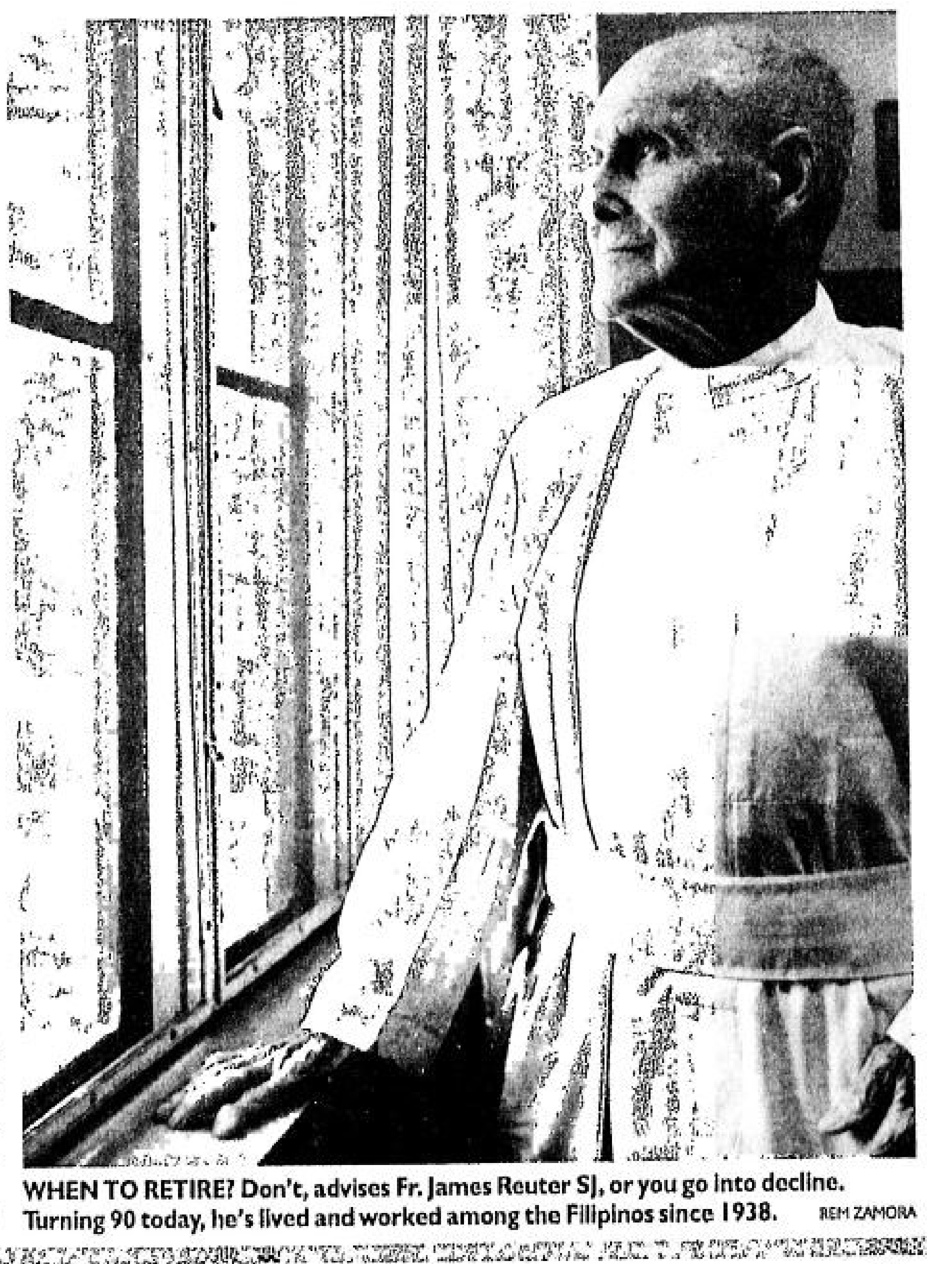
He remains optimistic that Filipinos—often maligned elsewhere for their poverty and politics—would eventually be understood, appreciated and respected.

"We will rise," he says. "Others think we are low simply because we have no money. But it's not the only criterion. We invest in life and love and they are far more important."

Reuter has much credibility when it comes to resilience and showcasing divine grace that carries the faithful through.

Four years ago while attending the golden jubilee of his former students at Ateneo de Naga's Class of 1952, his enlarged heart caused swelling in his legs and affected his lungs. His heartbeat went down to 30.

FR. REUTER/ A8



**WHEN TO RETIRE? Don't, advises Fr. James Reuter SJ, or you go into decline. Turning 90 today, he's lived and worked among the Filipinos since 1938.** REM ZAMORA

## Doc Ted: RP's unsung hero on Mt. Everest

By Alcuin Papa

FILIPINOS ARE A BIG HIT AT MT. EVEREST's Base Camp not only for the 1-2-3 finish of three of their own but also for showing international expeditions what goodwill is all about.

According to First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition team leader Arturo Valdez, FPMEE physician Ted Esguerra is probably the most popular person at the camp, which is situated 5,400 meters (17,700 feet) up the mountain.

Esguerra, a member of the Philippine Coast Guard and an expert in search and rescue, has been treating for free mountaineers afflicted with acute mountain sickness (AMS), as well as minor frostbite and respiratory ailments.

Normally, a visit to a commercial "clinic" at Base Camp would cost a climber $75.

"Our presence here, with Dr. Ted around, has had an impact on climbers from all over the world. He has been treating mountaineers who are suffering from AMS. It really shows the Filipino spirit and values," Valdez said in a satellite phone call to the INQUIRER.

Among Esguerra's recent patients were Israeli, Belgian and South African

DOC TED/ A12

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2006

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Second FRONTPAGE

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/21/06

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Metro Manila** | Partly Cloudy | **Iloilo/Bacolod** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Baguio** | Partly Cloudy | **Roxas** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Tuguegarao** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cebu** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Laoag** | Partly Cloudy | **Tacloban** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Clark Zone** | Partly Cloudy | **Gen. Santos** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Tagaytay** | Partly Cloudy | **Zamboanga** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Legazpi** | Cloudy with Rains | **Cagayan de Oro** | Cloudy with Rains |
| **Calapan** | Partly Cloudy | **Davao** | Cloudy with Rains |

# 'Make communism illegal again'

**By Tonette Orejas,** *PDI Central Luzon,*
**and Norman Bordadora** *in Manila*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—ARMY Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan suggested yesterday a new law be passed outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines and sympathetic organizations, saying their influence had grown in recent years and that repealing the old antisubversion law was a mistake.

The commander of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division told reporters such a law was necessary because "the influence of the enemy has grown big" and would speed up the government's anti-insurgency campaign.

Asked if he thought the repeal of Republic Act No. 1700, or the Antisubversion law, in 1994 was a mistake, Palparan replied, "Yes." He said this enabled leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines to infiltrate the government through party-list organizations.

"They're legal but they're doing illegal activities," Palparan said, citing the military's allegations of a tactical alliance among the CPP-NPA, party-list organizations and other opposition groups to topple the Arroyo administration.

"They have to draw the demarcation line of who they really are or it's better for them to go back to the hills," Palparan said.

"I would be happy if communist parties would be outlawed again," said Palparan, a self-styled rebel hunter accused by leftist groups of being behind some 500 cases of human rights violations—including executions of suspected rebels—in Samar, Mindoro and Central Luzon.

While Palparan met with reporters here, a group of peasants and agrarian reform advocates warned in Quezon City yesterday that the Arroyo administration was pushing activists in the legal struggle back to the mountains with the continued slaying of militants in the countryside.

Evangeline Mendoza, a member of the national executive council of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasariling Lokal ng Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unorka), said many of the group's members had been asking why they were being targeted by alleged military agents when they were trying to achieve change through legal means.

"Many of us also came from the Left. We gave up the armed struggle to try and achieve change through legal means. Our members are now asking us why they are still being killed," Mendoza said at a news conference.

Crying as she spoke, Mendoza added: "Life is quite difficult in the countryside. The time will come that we will once again take up arms against the government."

Unorka said it had documented 13 killings of its members since 2004. The highest ranking Unorka leader killed was its secretary general, Enrico Cabanit, who was shot to death by assassins in Davao del Norte on April 24.

"We'd be all the more forced to go back to the mountains if we have a secretary of justice like Raul Gonzalez who even dares militants to go back to the mountains," Mendoza said.

Francisco Nemenzo, chair of the group Laban ng Masa, said the military, particularly Palparan, was having so much difficulty winning the war against the insurgency that it was instead attacking activists in the legal arena.

Nemenzo said National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, a vocal foe of the left and the communist underground, was a friend from way back but he had a wild imagination and was spreading the theory that the Left itself was behind the killing of the activists.

In Baguio City, the Cordillera People's Alliance asked its members to stay alert following the killings of militants in Northern and Central Luzon. A CPA statement said Virgilio Aniceto, a member of a farmers' group, was the subject of surveillance by soldiers. *With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# JDV unhappy over slow train

**By Christine O. Avendaño**
**and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA IS DISappointed with the progress of the Charter change train express that seems to have been stopped in its tracks by disagreements over the mode of changing the 1987 Constitution.

De Venecia, who was in Malacañang yesterday to welcome visiting Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, told reporters that the House committee on constitutional amendments and its Senate counterpart would finally meet on Wednesday.

"It (meeting) should have been done immediately," De Venecia said.

Both the Senate and the House committees agreed to hold a dialogue on how to go about Charter change during Tuesday's Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting in Malacañang.

But since that meeting, the two committees, chaired respectively by Sen. Richard Gordon and Rep. Constantino Jaraula, had yet to convene.

Gordon and Jaraula were tasked to conduct a dialogue to break the stalemate on Charter change due to the Senate's opposition to the House Cha-cha proposals.

Malacañang also seemed impatient. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reminded the two chambers that people were "pinning their hopes on the successful outcome of the dialogue between the two committees."

Gordon said the first dialogue would be held on Wednesday.

On Friday, Gordon welcomed the reported agreement of his House counterpart to his committee's position that Congress could amend the Constitution without convening itself into a constituent assembly.

Gordon said this meant that lawmakers could now begin the process of amending the Charter by filing resolutions in their respective chambers.

In a caucus last Wednesday, the Senate committee took the position that the 1987 Constitution does not provide for a constituent assembly as a mode for proposing amendments to or revising the Charter. The committee members agreed that, instead, the Constitution allows Congress to make the amendments or revisions in the same manner that they enact new laws.

Jaraula, Gordon's House counterpart, said he agreed with the Senate committee's position.

On Friday, administration lawmakers called for a "ceasefire" in the word war between the senators and the Cha-cha proponents in a bid to salvage the forthcoming dialogue.

Lakas-CMD Representatives Eduardo Zialcita (Parañaque City) and Joel Mayo Almario (Davao Oriental) said they were concerned about the brewing word war after the Senate junked the Cha-cha proposal of the House.

They said this might preempt the dialogue between the senators and congressmen.

"We have agreed to try to thresh out our differences with senators in a diplomatic manner. Let's talk first and get the job done," Zialcita said.

"The Senate's new proposal on legislated Cha-cha should not hinder our forthcoming dialogue. The House will present its position on Cha-cha in the proper time during the dialogue," Almario said.

But Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, vice chair of the House justice committee, reminded them that the Senate position was unconstitutional.

Lagman cited a 1967 Supreme Court ruling that "the power to amend the Constitution or to propose amendments thereto is not included in the general grant of legislative powers to Congress." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

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**RP'S BIGGEST MALL OPENS**
**President Macapagal-Arroyo is greeted by SM chair Henry Sy (second from right) and his wife Felicidad Sy (beside Ms Arroyo) at the inauguration yesterday of the Mall of Asia, the largest shopping complex in the country built on 60 hectares in the reclaimed area off Manila Bay. Looking on are Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales (third from right) and Hans Sy Jr. (right).**
ROMY HOMILLADA

# OIC calls for Misuari's release in aid of talks

DAVAO—THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISlamic Conference yesterday called for the release of jailed Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari to help the progress of the peace talks in Mindanao.

Misuari, jailed for a short-lived rebellion in 2001, is necessary for the peace talks to prosper, said Sayed Kassem El-Masry, adviser to the OIC secretary and head of the OIC delegation visiting Mindanao.

"We are appealing to the government of the Philippines to release Misuari. We honestly think that his participation will be a catalyst to the peace process and his contribution will help the process move forward," El-Masry said.

But he stressed that the OIC wanted the release of Misuari to be within the constitutional and judicial process.

Government peace adviser Jesus Dureza agreed with El-Masry, adding that Misuari's case would have to go through the judicial process.

"The President cannot just tell the judge that Misuari be freed," Dureza said.

El-Masry said releasing Misuari would help boost the effectiveness of a peace accord that Misuari's Muslim separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) signed with the government in 1996.

Then MNLF chair Misuari signed a peace treaty with the government in 1996 to end decades of fighting in Mindanao which the country's Muslim minority considers their ancestral homeland.

The MNLF is recognized by the OIC as the representative of the Philippines' Muslim minority although an MNLF breakaway group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is conducting its own peace talks with the government.

After the peace accord, Misuari was elected governor of the Muslim autonomous region in Mindanao and many of his fighters were absorbed into the military and police.

But after the government refused to back him for another term, Misuari led a rebellion in 2001 that left more than 100 dead. He was captured in Malaysia and is facing charges over rebellion.

The OIC delegation earlier visited Misuari as part of its mission to monitor the implementation of the peace treaty and look into possible violations by both the government and the Muslim rebels. *AFP*

# Nene belittles 'JDV medal'

A FAKE MEDAL, OR JUST A SOURPUSS'S REaction?

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday conferred on visiting Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Mbasogo the Congressional Medal of Achievement, commending his leadership that brought the West African country from dictatorship to economic prosperity.

De Venecia conferred the award on the second day of Obiang's four-day state visit to the Philippines, in ceremonies attended by senior leaders of the House of Representatives and members of the African President's delegation.

But the Speaker's gesture was roundly criticized by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., who said the medal De Venecia awarded to Mbosogo and other dignitaries ahead of him was unauthorized.

Pimentel said the medal was tantamount to misrepresentation because no counterpart Senate resolution signified the medal had truly emanated from Congress.

"The Speaker should stop using (the word) congressional to describe the medal he has been awarding to whoever catches his fancy. The Senate in particular has not authorized such a medal," Pimentel said.

"So as not to mislead, Speaker de Venecia should refrain from awarding the so-called Congressional Medal of Achievement. Or he should just call it House of Representatives medal to be truthful," he said.

The citation to Mbasogo read, "On coming to power, he released all political prisoners, reopened all the churches, ordered the immediate restitution of private prosperity the regime had confiscated, and had the democratic constitution written."

It further said: "The World Bank had praised his administration on his country's resources, as well as his re-investment in the country of the proceeds of its natural wealth. This assessment was reinforced by the International Monetary Fund in March 2006." *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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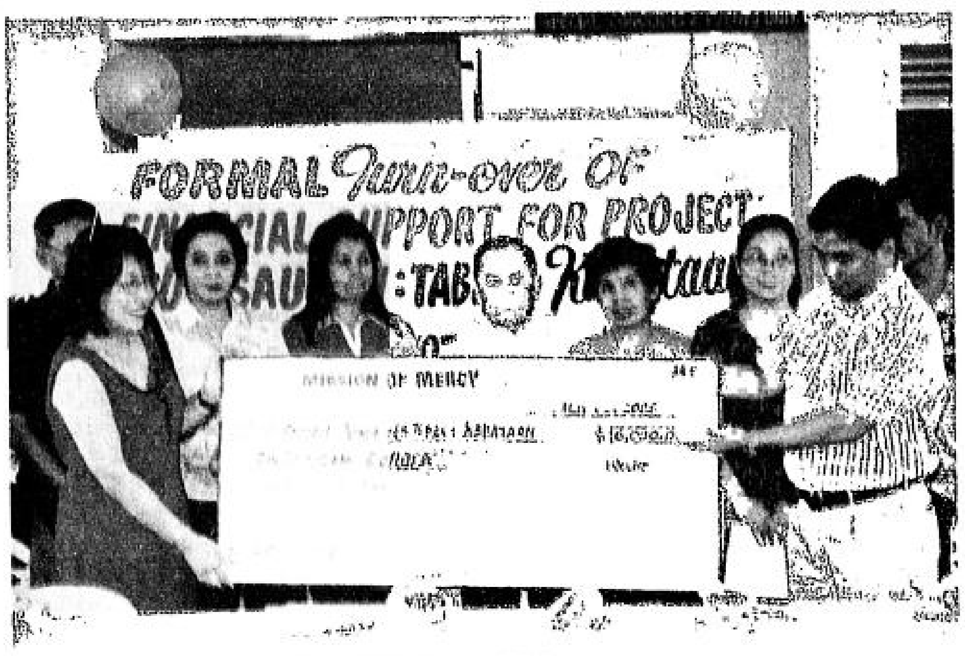


**FUNDS FOR GUINSAUGON STUDENTS**
US-based Filipino organizations—the Mission of Mercy led by Fr. Leo Manalo, the Council of Filipino Organizations of Tidewater headed by Dr. Manny Hipol and the Waray-Waray Association of Tidewater headed by Nida Villalon—donated $10,500 to the Department of Education in Eastern Visayas for its Project Guinsaugon: Tabang Kabataan, a scholarship program for student-survivors of the Guinsaugon landslide. Photo shows Flor Velasco-Villania (left), a WWAT trustee, handing over a check to DepEd Assistant Regional Director Alberto Escobarte (right).

# Signatures in Capiz, Gensan verified, says Sigaw ng Bayan

By Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

A GROUP PUSHING FOR CHARTER CHANGE via a people's initiative yesterday claimed that the Commission on Elections had verified the necessary signatures in the province of Capiz and in General Santos City.

The courts in these two places have stopped the verification of signatures by local Comelec officials but lawyer Raul Lambino said signatures representing three percent of registered voters in these areas had already been verified prior to the injunctions.

Under the Constitution, a successful people's initiative for constitutional amendments must be concurred in, through signatures, by 12 percent of registered voters nationwide and three percent of registered voters in each of the more than 200 legislative districts.

"It's moot and academic. We'd be ready to file a petition before the Comelec and bring before it truckloads of verified signatures this coming week," said Lambino, leader of the people's initiative group Sigaw ng Bayan.

Lambino said they were informed that the Comelec had verified the signatures of at least three percent of the registered voters in Capiz as early as April 10, and those in General Santos City by April 20.

The courts stopped the verification in Capiz in late April and in General Santos City in May, he said.

Sigaw ng Bayan had earlier claimed that the signatures in support of the people's initiative had already been verified by local Comelec officials in 90 percent of the country's 200 legislative districts.

But the Comelec said it could not confirm the claims by Sigaw ng Bayan.

"It's improper for us to say that. It's their (Sigaw ng Bayan's) responsibility," Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez III said in a phone interview.

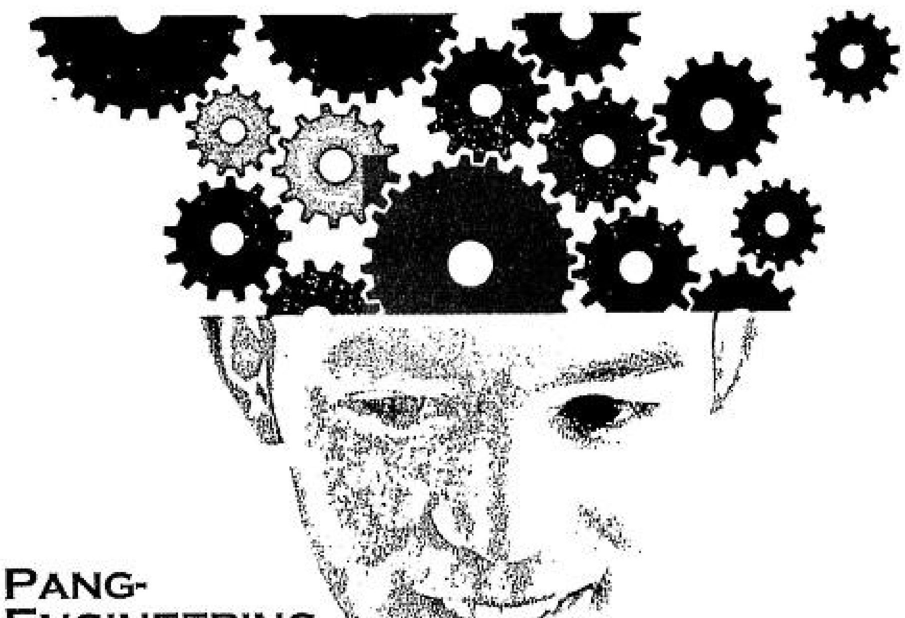
Jimenez explained that the local election officials' job as of now was limited to verifying the authenticity, not the number, of the signatures presented to them in the district level.

"We don't certify the numbers [of those who signed]. What we certify (in the local level) is the authenticity of the signatures," he said.

Jimenez added that it was up to the proponents to reveal the status of the verification because the petition for initiative had not yet been filed with the Comelec.

He added that once the Comelec was allowed to entertain the petition, only then could it determine and reveal if the constitutional requirements for the initiative were met.

Jimenez said the Comelec was likely to receive the petition once it was filed, but "whether the Comelec en banc would take cognizance of it is another matter."



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# Senators to realign 'slush funds' in 2006 budget

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS HAVE PINPOINTED questionable appropriations in the House-approved 2006 national budget and are looking at realigning these "slush funds," including a staggering P1-billion e-government fund, to the least prioritized departments.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the Senate committee on finance, said yesterday that most of the senators' proposed amendments zeroed in on questionable "lump sum appropriations."

"Definitely we have made amendments to the House approved version. We will zero in on questionable lump sum appropriations," Villar said in a statement.

The proposals will be incorporated in the Senate budget proposal, according to Villar, who will sponsor the P1-trillion national budget for 2006 on Monday to kick off plenary debates on the measure.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he had proposed scrutinizing the P1-billion e-government fund, among other items, and redistributing it to the Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Interior and Local Government, for instance.

"This is a new entry in the budget. As far as I'm concerned, this is nothing but a pork barrel of the President. Who is going to benefit from this? Only they will benefit from this," Lacson said in an interview, referring to the President's allies.

Of the amount, some P75 million was allocated to the administration-dominated House of Representatives, according to the senator.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, on the other hand, wants the P3-billion Kalayaan Barangay fund and the P3.69-billion Kilos Asenso fund, two new items in the budget, to be deleted.

"These pork barrel funds can all be deleted," Drilon said in an interview. He, however, said that he was open to realigning these funds to the DOST "where we can better utilize them."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has also proposed the transfer of these "politically partisan slush funds" to the DOST, the least prioritized but the best agency to invent technology, say on tapping alternative fuels.

# RP Olympic boxer killed in Iraq

LAS VEGAS—AT 32, FORMER PHILIPPINE Olympic boxer Emmanuel "Manny" Legaspi was older than the typical recruit when he signed up for the US Army in 2000.

He had lived in the United States for only a year, but wanted a chance to show he appreciated living in America, his wife Shona said.

"He didn't want anyone to question his patriotism," said Shona, before a Thursday memorial service for her husband, who was shot and killed in combat May 7 in Tal Afar, Iraq.

Legaspi, 38, a staff sergeant, left behind his wife and a 6-month-old daughter.

The Legaspis moved from the Philippines to Las Vegas in 1999 to join Manny's mother, Victoria.

Legaspi had worked as a lifeguard and slot machine technician before enlisting and completing a first tour of duty in Iraq.

He returned home and the Legaspis' daughter, Carmen, was born in November. In January, he was deployed again to Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany.

"He was such a unique and special individual, and I'm really glad I got to spend that time with him," Shona said.

Legaspi, a middleweight, lost his first Olympic bout in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea. On Thursday, his wife and mother each received Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals posthumously awarded by the US military. *AP*

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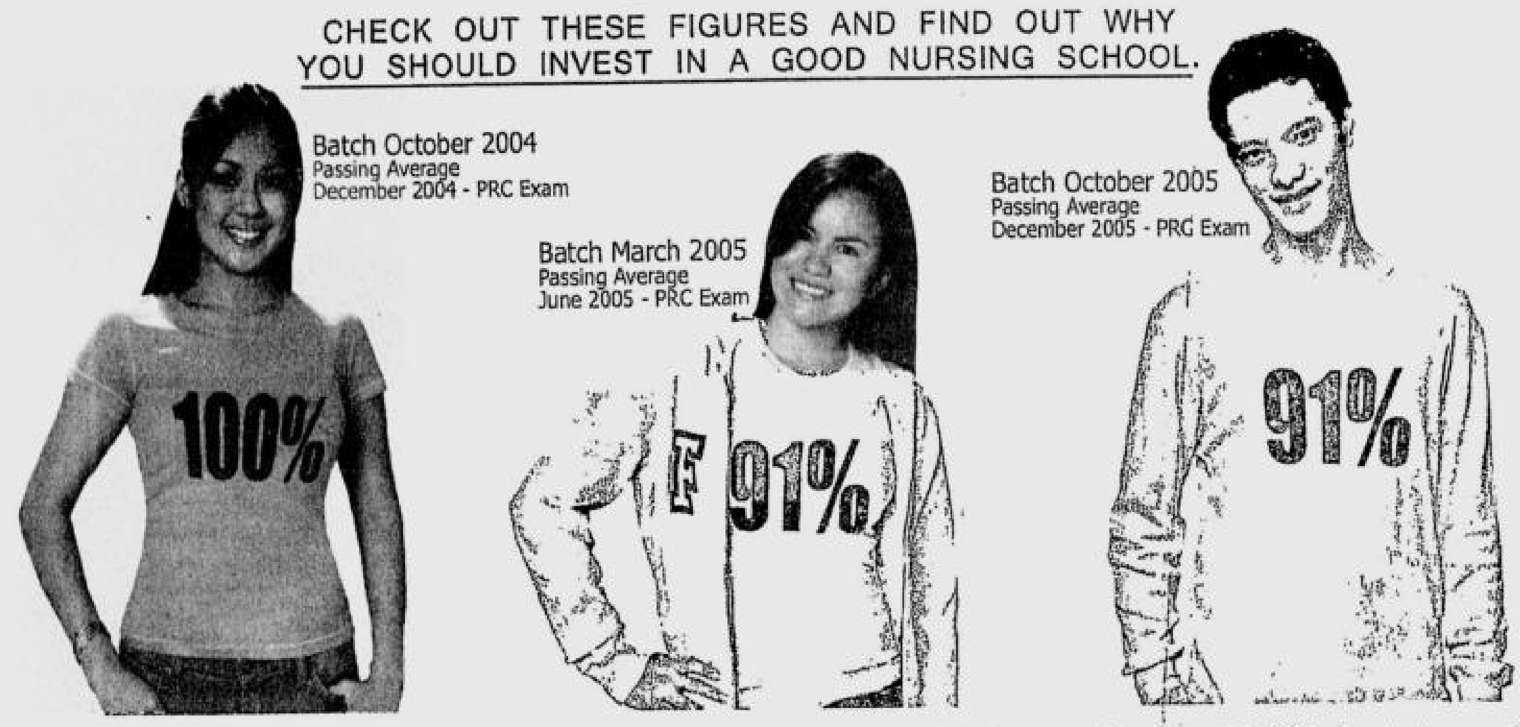

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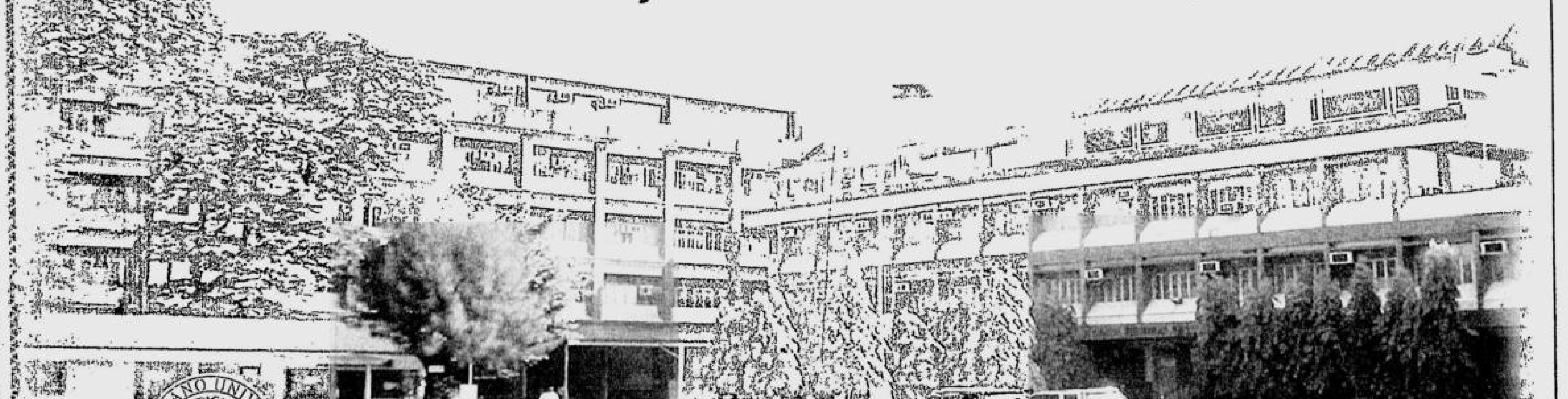

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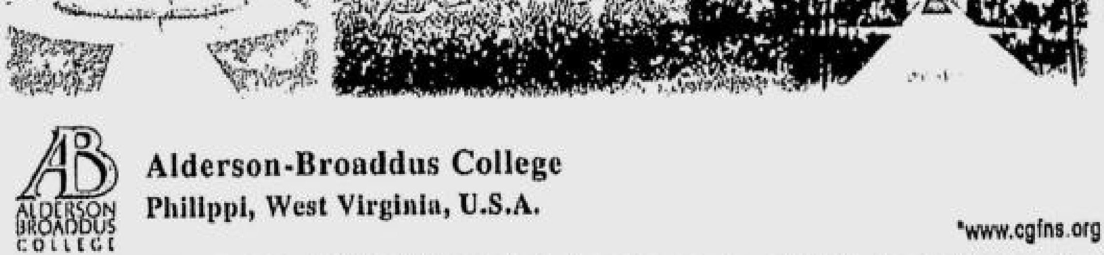

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# Prosecution to present 35 witnesses in Subic case

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE LAWYERS PROSECUTING FOUR US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport last year plan to present 35 witnesses and nearly as many pieces of documentary evidence to prove their allegations when the case goes on trial.

During a preliminary conference at the Makati Regional Trial Court last Friday, the prosecution gave the clerk of court and defense lawyers a list of the nearly three dozen witnesses who will testify against Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith and Dominic Duplantis, who have been charged with raping the woman aboard a cruising van last Nov. 1.

## Burden of proof

"That's the job of the prosecution—to prove the crime beyond reasonable doubt," lead private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua told reporters as she explained the proceedings. "That's why it's normal for the prosecution to have that many witnesses, and when there are witnesses that we could present, we would maximize that because the burden of proof is really with us."

Defense lawyer Jose Justiniano, counsel for Silkwood, expressed no surprise at the prosecution's witness list, saying that what matters in the end is what they have to say.

## Not about numbers

"We are not surprised. It's not about numbers. What we are talking about here is what they will say, whether it's important or not," said Justiniano, whose only piece of evidence is Silkwood's affidavit denying the accusation.

While they did not name the witnesses they would present, other defense lawyers said in court that they would present the sworn statements of Carpentier, Smith and Duplantis when it is their turn to rebut the allegations. The defense would also use the second sworn statement of Timoteo Soriano Jr., the Filipino driver of the van where the alleged rape took place.

Soriano retracted an earlier statement in which he detailed the alleged rape and signed a second sworn statement denying having witnessed the incident. Soriano said he merely drove the Starex van the servicemen were using while on furlough from joint Philippine-US military exercises.

Soriano was also on the prosecution's witness list, although Ursua said the panel had yet to inform him that he would be presented as their witness.

## List of evidence

"That's really what is done during a preliminary conference: You list all the evidence and witnesses you are going to present, all that you could list down, because later they might be excluded during trial," Ursua said.

Also to take the stand will be the alleged rape victim herself, identified only as "Nicole" in the media to protect her identity.

Other witnesses to be presented are doctors and psychiatrists, Olongapo City crime investigators, evidence custodians of the Philippine National Police crime laboratories in Olongapo and at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, and individuals who saw the victim at Subic's Alava Pier, where she was allegedly dumped after the rape.

"You will discover in the course of the trial who would give important testimonies.... What we did was we listed everyone who had knowledge about the incident, either before, during or after the incident," said Ursua.

The prosecution and defense panels are expected to discuss the trial schedule in another conference on Monday.

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As a B.S. Entrepreneurship student in the Entrepreneurs School of Asia (ESA.), Mariel not only acquired the business tools and knowledge but more importantly realized her passion and transformed it into a business. Armed with the entrepreneurial skills and mindset from ESA, she is now on her way to become the next big thing in Philippine fashion.

*"I didn't really think I could have my own apparel business, and start succeeding, even before I graduated from college." **Mariel Rivera, Student Entrepreneur***

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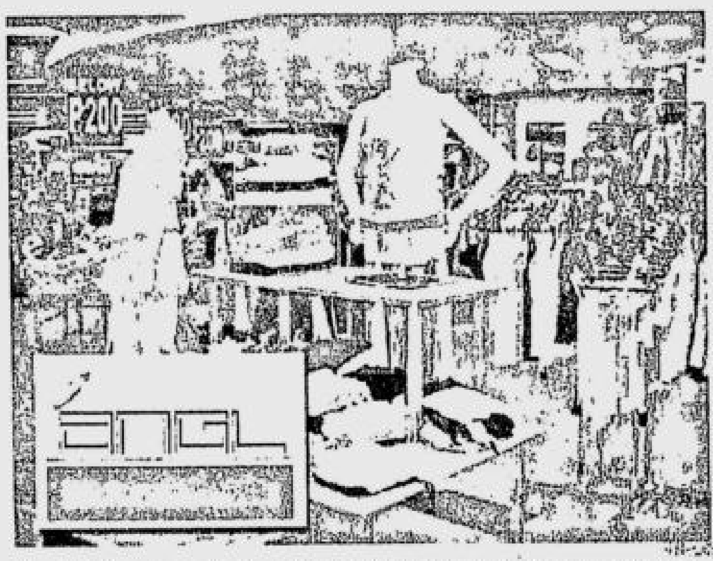

*Mariel Rivera's products on display at Robinsons Department Store*

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 21, 2006
6th Sunday of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

### Baptism of Cornelius II

As Peter was about to enter, Cornelius went to him, fell on his knees and bowed low. But Peter lifted him up saying, "Stand up, for I too am a human being."

Peter then spoke to them, "Truly, I realize that God does not show partiality, but in all nations he listens to everyone who fears God and does good."

Peter was still speaking when the Holy Spirit came upon all who listened to the Word. And the believers of Jewish origin who had come with Peter were amazed, "Why! God gives and pours the Holy Spirit on foreigners also!" For indeed this happened: they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter declared, "Can we refuse to baptize with water these people who have received the Holy Spirit, just as we have?" So he had them baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. After that they asked him to remain with them for some days.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

### Love is of God

My dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Those who do not love have not known God, for God is love.

How did the love of God appear among us? God sent his only Son into this world that we might have life through him.

This is love: not that we loved God but that he first loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

### No greater love

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

"I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

"You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

"This is my command, that you love one another."

**Commentary**

*Peter enters Cornelius' house and as he preaches, the Spirit comes upon Cornelius and everyone there listening. They are baptized in the Spirit first, followed by water! It seems the order of ritual wasn't that crucial.*

*The power of the Word transforms. It is this Word that gives knowledge of God, and that knowledge is—its heart—Love. Love is the person Jesus revealed and dwelling in our midst, in word, eucharist, community, the poor. We are called friends of God IF we obey the commands of Jesus, even to loving unto death, as he did with us. And our God shares the joy of the Trinity with us, but we must remember that we have been chosen and that we are to bear fruit in the world. Always it comes down to: Love one another as I have loved you.*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

# BARAGATAN 2006

## May 22 - June 2

THE annual convergence of Palaweños and all those who love Palawan and enjoy its pristine beauty starts tomorrow, May 22 with the Baragatan Festival.

For the first time since the festival started six years ago, this year's Baragatan Festival will be held independently of the commemoration of the founding anniversary of the establishment of the Palawan civil government. "We want our Baragatan Festival to have its own identity, separate from the founding anniversary of the civil government which we will continue to observe and celebrate every June 23," explains Gov. Joel T. Reyes. "Baragatan is our provincial festival and this is one occasion when Palaweños coming from the 23 municipalities including the City of Puerto Princesa come together in one convergence area for a festive cultural gathering," the Governor adds.

The Capitol Park Square, a major infrastructure project of Gov. Reyes which is part of the Provincial Capitol Complex in Puerto Princesa City, serves as the main venue of the festival that will run from May 22 to June 2, 2006. It will be a 12-day event of myriad activities from cultural presentations , trade fairs featuring the best of Palawan's agricultural products, processed foods, arts and crafts, and souvenir items to sports competitions, dance and musical contests and government services.

Highlights of tomorrow's opening activities are the Float Parade and the *Pantiguan sa Baragatan*, a new event that will be a showdown of local officials as they present their town festival in a dance parade.

Like most Philippine festivals, Palawan's Baragatan, will also have its own streedancing competition which is locally known as the *Saraotan sa Dalan*. For this year, participants to the *Saraotan sa Dalan* will compete for the best rendition and performance of the *Cuyonon Ati-Ati*, a parade dance originating from the island municipality of Cuyo.

Baragatan comes from the Cuyono root word, *bagat*, which means to meet, to gather, to converge in one place. It is a term that appropriately depicts the essence of the provincial festival.

Governor Reyes says that with this year's innovations, the Baragatan will have a more defined identity of its own that will truly mirror the culture and the aspirations of Palaweños.

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### schedule of activities

*Tour of Palawan* (Cycling Competition) ▸ **MAY 16 - 24** *Governor Joel T. Reyes Golf Cup* ▸ **MAY 21**
*Float Parade & Pantiguan sa Baragatan* ▸ **MAY 22** *Handog ng Kapitolyo sa Mamamayang Palaweño* ▸ **MAY 22**
*LGU Cultural Show* ▸ **MAY 23 - 25** *Basketball Friendship Games* ▸ **MAY 23 - 26** *Palawan Pop Idol* ▸ **MAY 25**
*Jobs Fair* ▸ **MAY 25 - 26** *2nd Gov. Joel T. Reyes Inter-Media Basketball Tournament* ▸ **APRIL 25 - MAY 28**
*Munting Tinig & Dance Craze Competitions* ▸ **MAY 26** *Region IV New Face Taekwondo Championship* ▸ **MAY 27**
*2nd Governor's Cup Shooting Competition* ▸ **MAY 27** *TLDC Caravan - Seminar on Swine & Poultry Raising* ▸ **MAY 27**
*1st Gov. Joel T. Reyes Badminton Challenge* ▸ **MAY 26 - 28** *Baragatan Battle of the Bands* ▸ **MAY 28**
*Boxing Tournament* ▸ **MAY 28 - JUNE 01** *Tennis Tournament* ▸ **MAY 29 - JUNE 02**
*Hataw Na! Sa Kanta at Sayaw!* ▸ **MAY 29** *BEANS Convention* ▸ **MAY 29 - 30**
*7th Annual Convention, Liga ng mga Barangay* (Province) ▸ **MAY 30 - JUNE 01**
*Mutya ng Palawan Talent Night* ▸ **MAY 31**
*Baragatan Y ang mga Santo* (Conference of the Saints) ▸ **MAY 31**
*Mutya ng Palawan Coronation Night* ▸ **JUNE 01** *DFA Passporting* ▸ **MAY 30 - JUNE 02**
*Saraotan sa Dalan* (Street Dancing) / *Closing Program / Party sa Parke / Fireworks* ▸ **JUNE 02**
*and many more...!*

### 12-day long activities

*Caraenan sa Baragatan* ▸ *TLDC Caravan 2006* ▸ *Garden Show* ▸
*Private Trade Fair* ▸ *LGU Trade Fair* ▸ *Photo Contest*

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# Fr. Reuter: Honorary Pinoy still dreams at 90

From page A1

He could hardly walk and by evening, he had to be rushed to the hospital's ICU where he stayed for four days.

"This is not good," he recalls the doctor telling his former students who were all grandfathers.

Soon there was a deluge of text messages from friends and loved ones, all expressing fear that the old man's time had come.

"Many thought I was dying," Reuter says.

He survived the ordeal and has had no big scare since.

## Lumpia lover

Fortunately, the experience did not saddle him with heavy medications, save for four maintenance drugs, one of which is a vitamin and another for his arthritis.

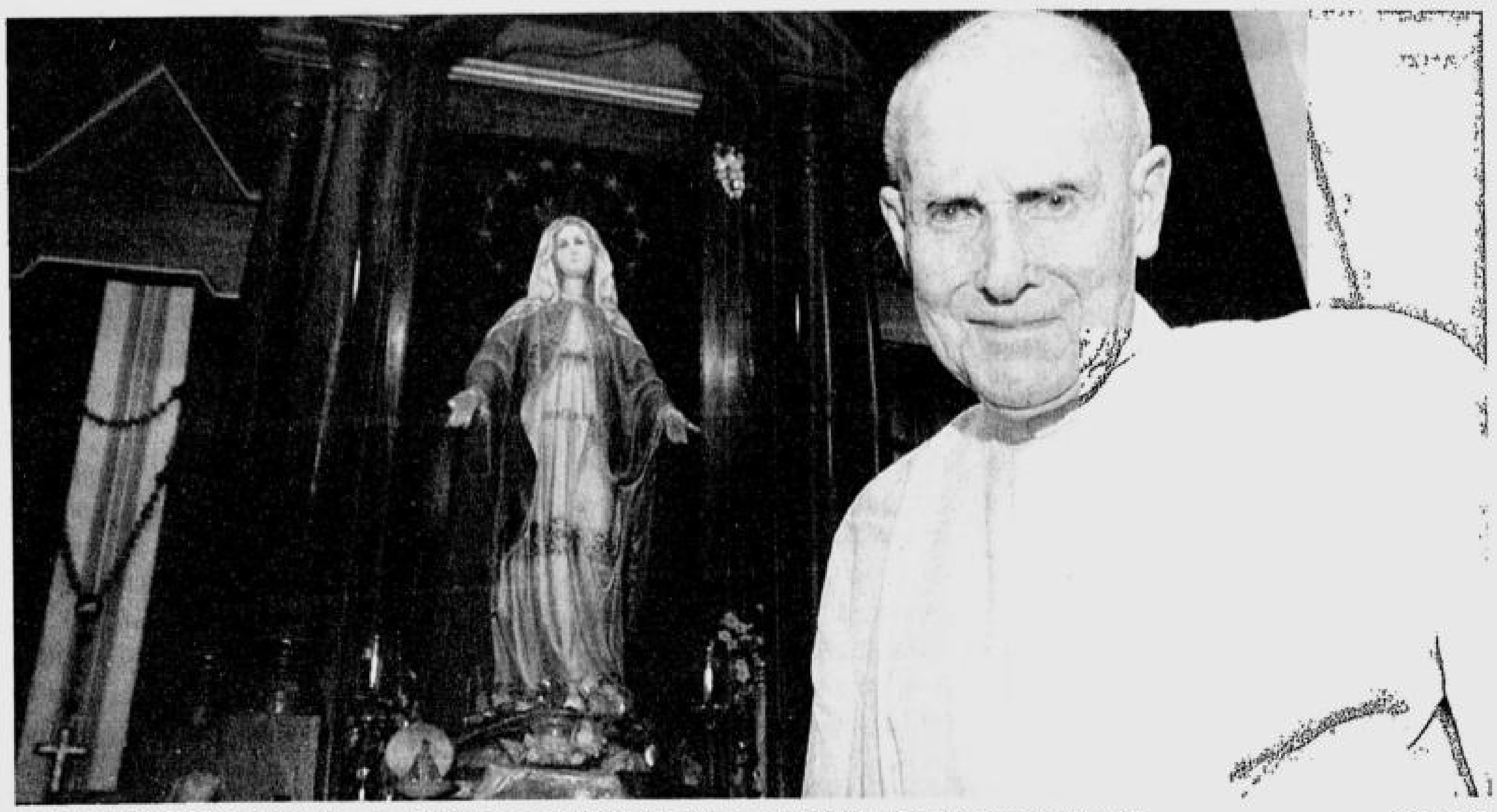
There are no dietary restrictions since he's been practicing nutritional discipline all his life. As an American, he says he's naturally a lover of steak, carrots, peas, corn and soup. A Filipino at heart, he also loves *lumpia* (spring rolls).

Taking no chances, Reuter's cardiologist, who's also a nun, ordered an oxygen tank on standby in his office at all times. He says he uses it when he's sleeping or writing at his desk.

Reuter is in bed by 9 p.m. and up by 5 a.m. Three times weekly, he rises at 2:30 a.m. to write his weekly column for a newspaper, as well as his sermons and reflections.

## Two-fold formula

"It's not as crazy as it looks," he says. "My energy is highest early in the morning."



THE UNFINISHED DREAM: To make TV Maria, a new Catholic station, get off the ground strong and steady.

REM ZAMORA

Reuter owes his durability to a two-fold formula.

"One, work with young people. Two, don't stop," he says. "I noticed that so many of my contemporaries—when they stopped whatever it was they were doing, they went into a decline."

By young people, he means nursery or elementary school kids who have been the main subject and audience of 25 of his plays.

Some of these plays will appear in "Legacy," a collection of 12 plays he wrote for stage, radio, television, as well as some of his reflections.

The compilation, a tribute to Reuter by members of the Ateneo College Glee Club, which the priest put up in 1953, will be launched on his birthday today.

Last February, Reuter directed some 150 children in "The Night Before Christmas," a play he wrote a long time ago about children yet to be born who remained in the mind of God.

As in the past, he read and recorded each line for every role and gave a copy to each of the participants.

## Busier than ever

"Technically, they've not yet reached the age of reason, but they're smart," he says. "They can't read yet so you must not show them the script. So I recorded the whole thing, read all the roles, and they listened to them and imitated them."

He would have loved to show the children how they were supposed to act in every scene but his arthritis didn't allow him to do so. Instead, he "trained a trainer" by tapping one adult and teaching him how the acting should be done.

## Unfinished dreams

The play, mounted at the James B. Reuter Theater at St. Paul's University in Quezon City, was a huge hit.

It will be restaged in New Jersey in December.

"It's very strange. I'm more busy than I ever was before," he says.

Much of Reuter's passion is in radio and television.

Having led the National Office of Mass Media in coordinating the conduct of all 49 Catholic radio stations, including television programs, the priest says he still has some unfinished business.

He wants "TV Maria to get off the ground strong."

TV Maria is a new Catholic station designed to propagate the faith and Church teachings through the powerful medium of television.

He is not satisfied that the station on Dream Satellite has only eight hours of fresh programming, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. The same programs are replayed to cover the 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. slots.

Reuter's sentiments are understandable. For half a century, he has been using the media—radio, TV and print—to spread the Catholic faith.

In the process, he has touched the Filipino soul and has walked with the people. He knows they're no headless wanderers.

"I think Filipinos are rich in the treasures of the spirit," he says.

# Like teflon, GMA . . .

From page A1

Administration lawmakers yesterday challenged the opposition "to unleash their worst impeachment case" against President Macapagal-Arroyo, adding that they were confident it would be dismissed more speedily than the cases filed last year.

## Like teflon

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Lakas, Ilocos Sur) said they expected the new complaint to have a very short run because the country had grown tired of the spate of damaging accusations that they said were based only on fabricated evidence.

"They already threw atomic bombs against the President amidst a well-funded, concerted and extremely vicious campaign last year and where did that get them? *Nada*. Zero," Nograles said.

The implication is that like teflon, criticisms, no matter how vile, don't stick to Ms Arroyo.

"They can continue to do their worst, but we are confident that the Arroyo administration will remain standing," he added.

Nograles noted that the President and her family had been accused of having secret multibillion-peso bank accounts and money laundering operations, of complicity in jueteng and illegal government transactions, and election fraud but these accusations did not succeed in getting her impeached.

He added that filing an impeachment complaint without having the necessary number of votes in the House to have the President impeached was "a great disservice to the nation."

"To file an impeachment case just to shake up the nation without making sure of the numbers is a great disservice to the nation. We have better things to do in Congress," Nograles said.

## Media blitz

Baterina said the opposition had aired their accusations in "massive media blitzes featuring privilege speeches, press conferences, impeachment complaints and congress resolutions and various stage-managed mass actions and rallies in attempts to rouse the people in a popular revolt against the President."

But despite these "well-funded campaigns," Baterina said the administration was able to weather the storm and was even "in the process of reversing its fallen approval rating amidst the people's growing disenchantment with destructive politics and black propaganda attacks from the opposition."

The lawmaker added: "The latest surveys are already reflecting what we had been hearing from our constituents since last year, that our people are already sick and tired of all these opposition shenanigans, which only have the net effect of making their lives harder because of reduced business confidence and disruptions to traffic."

Baterina said this "growing disenchantment with political intramurals" had led him to believe that any new impeachment cases to be filed this year could "even be more speedily dispatched this time around."

"We will give any and all impeachment complaints found to be sufficient in form due course. But the way things are shaping up, I feel that the opposition's new political zarzuela (operetta) will have a very short run," Baterina said.

## Another Da Vinci

Neither is Malacañang shaking in its boots despite threats from the opposition to drop the bombshell of a revived impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio said the bombshell was no different from the so-called hooks in a suspense film like "The Da Vinci Code." He said the impeachment case was being primed to be the stage from which to launch the opposition's campaign for the 2007 elections.

## Motive: 2007 election

"All of them have their own definition of a bombshell and ways on how to create suspense. It's probably just in keeping with the season since 'The Da Vinci Code' is now showing. It's their way of creating some thrills," said Claudio in a radio interview.

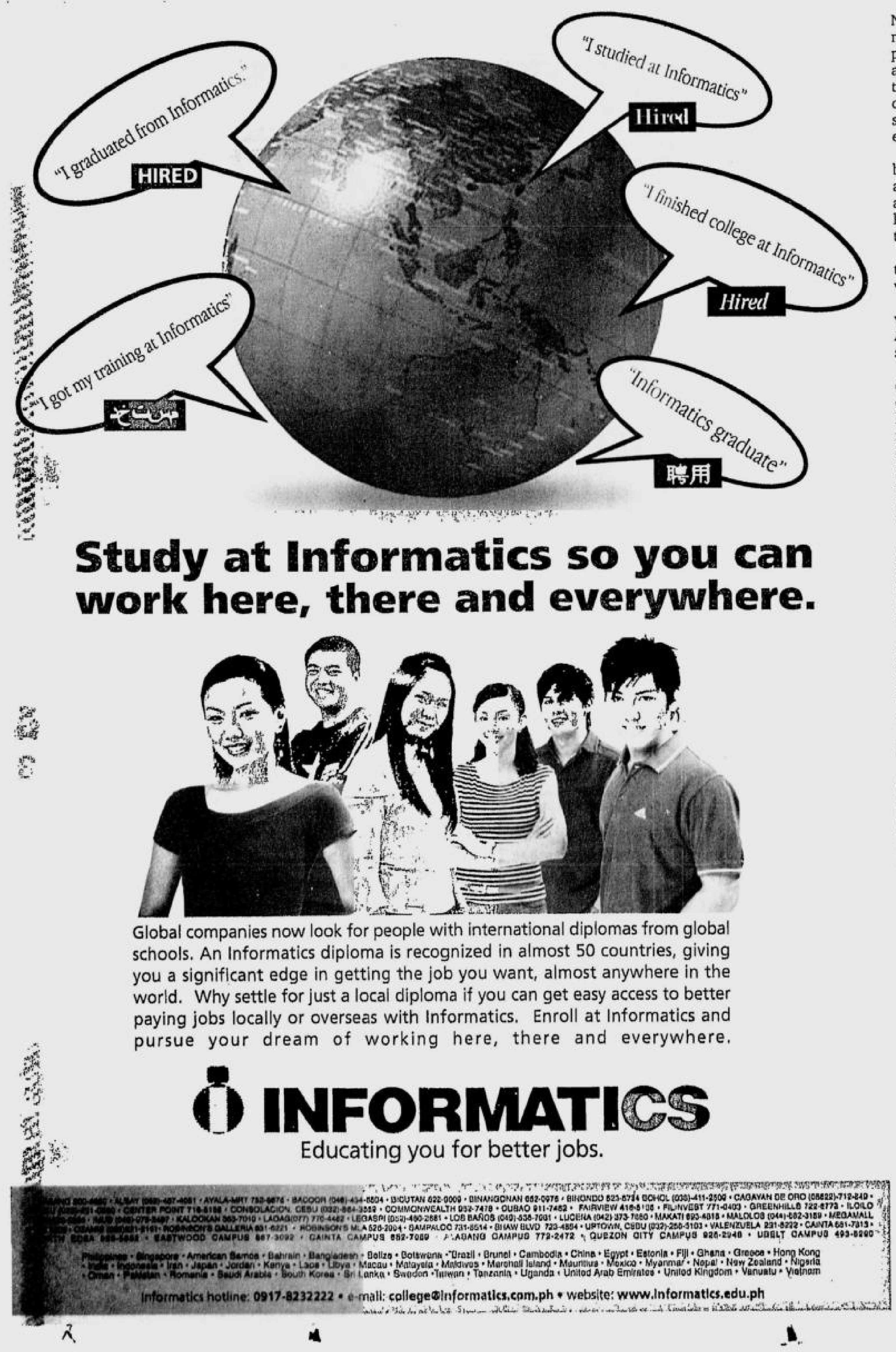
He added that the most likely motive of the opposition was the upcoming 2007 elections.

"[The year] 2007 is fast coming. The opposition is probably mounting this even though they have no chance of winning because they want a forum or stage where they can be in the public eye for their ambition in 2007. There is somebody there who wants to run for senator and he wants to be on television," Claudio said.

Claudio said the Palace was confident that the opposition could not come up with any new issues against the President that would justify the filing of another impeachment case. He also noted that the ranks of the administration continued to swell in the House of Representatives and that would only mean more votes against an impeachment.

He also said that the opposition's threat to eject those who refuse to sign the impeachment complaint from the minority ranks was a "sign of insecurity."

"It shows that they themselves are not sure about what they are doing. It has reached a point that even before they reach their misadventure, they are already using intimidation," Claudio said.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# Unregistered firm's owner faces tax raps

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE ON Friday charged the owner of an unregistered construction company with tax evasion for failure to pay P15.46 million in income and value-added taxes from 2001 to 2004.

Charged by the BIR before the Department of Justice was Richard Santos of Horseshoe Village, Quezon City, owner of Instantaneous Fast Construction Services and/or Fast Construct located on Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Santos was charged with failure to register his business, issuing unregistered official receipts and invoices, failure to remit taxes withheld, and failure to file and pay income taxes/VAT during the four-year period.

BIR investigation showed that Santos deliberately did not register his company with the BIR before undertaking several construction projects with private companies such as Nova Fushion Inc., Container Board Packaging Corp., Olympia Housing and System Access Phils. Inc., and failing to pay the required annual registration fees in violation of the Tax Code.

The BIR also found that Santos' company withheld taxes from a P10.84 million contract with a subcontractor named Sui Generis Corp. which undertook the construction of a packaging plant owned by Container Board and Packaging. He, however, did not remit the tax withheld to the BIR.

As a businessman, the BIR said, Santos was obliged to declare all income derived from whatever sources and pay the corresponding taxes which the latter failed to do so for four years.

*Cynthia D. Balana*

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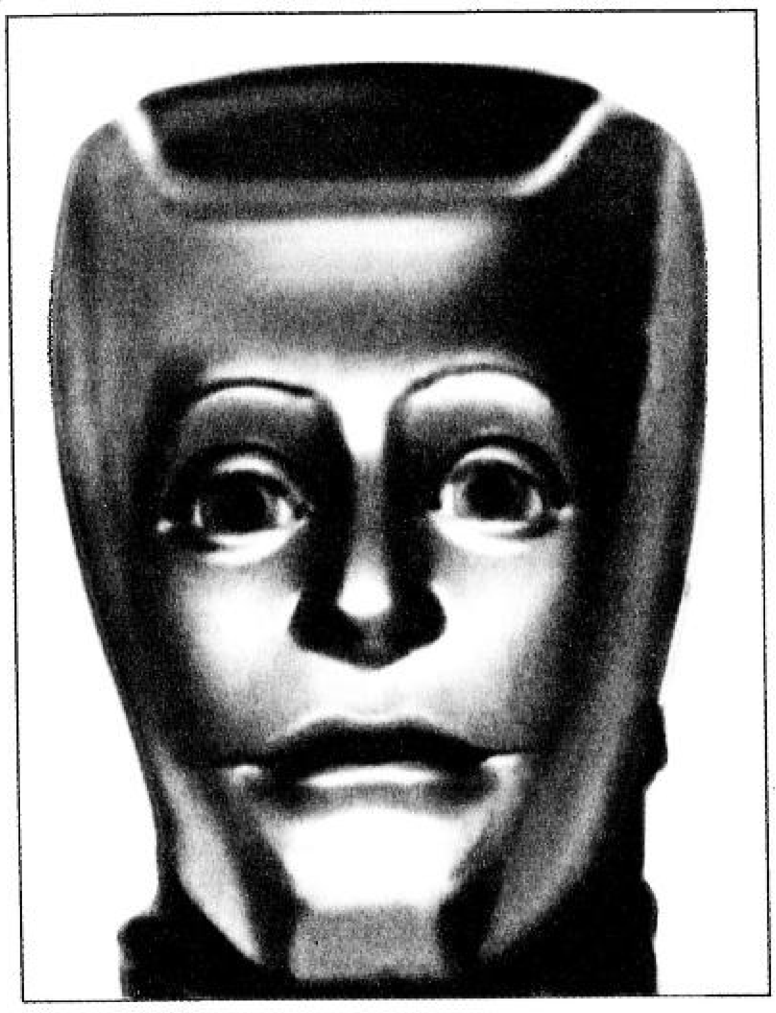
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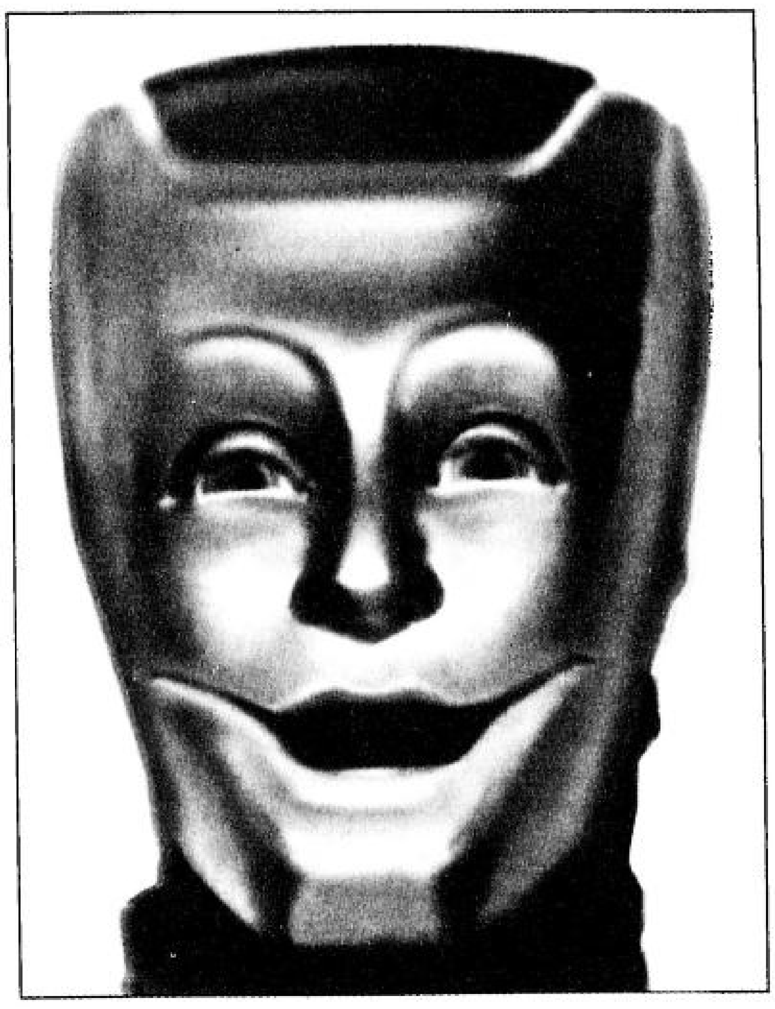
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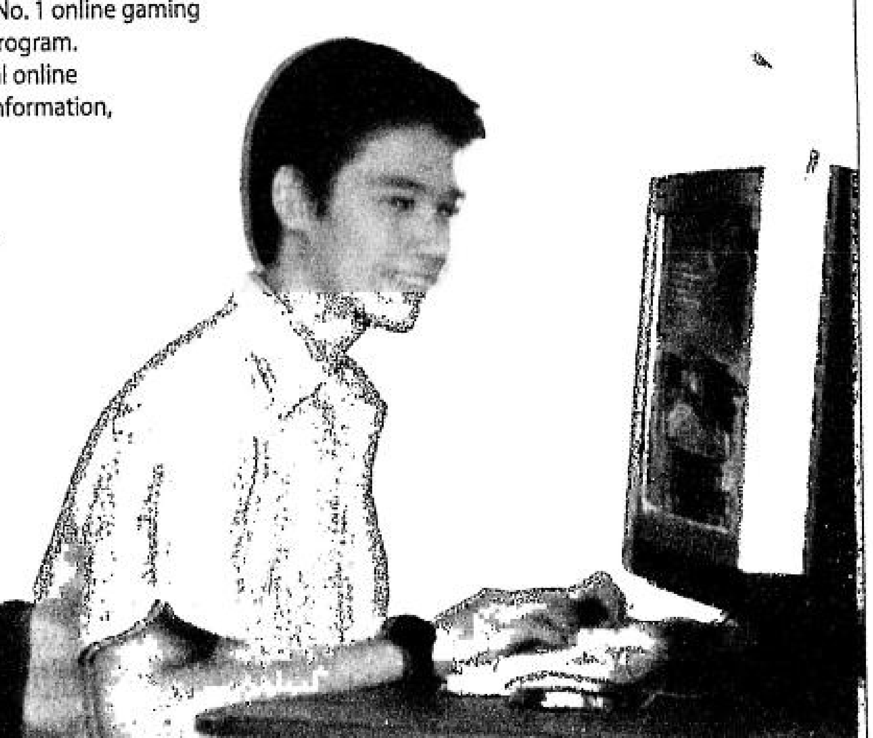

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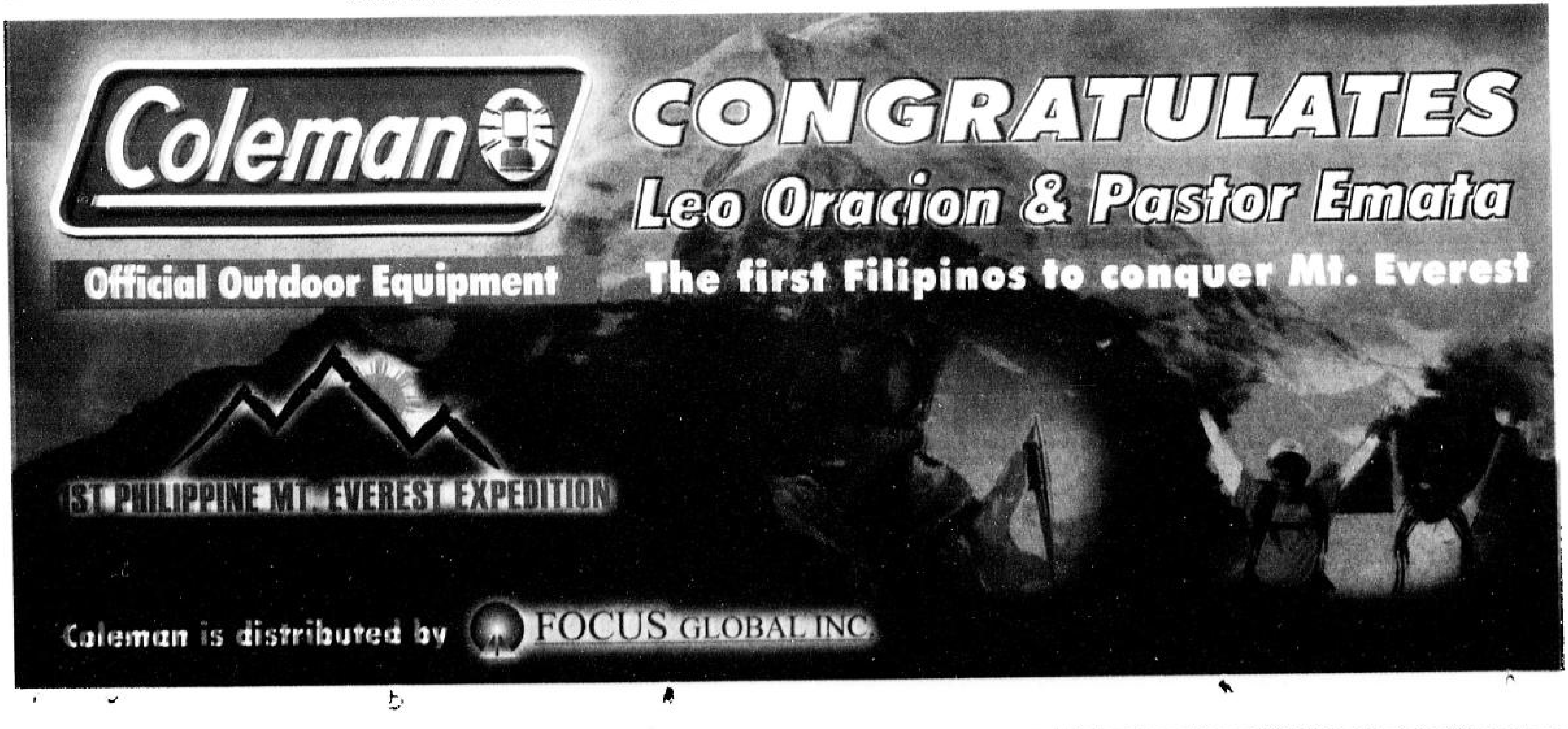
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# *Pinoys' Everest feat thrills RP community in Nepal*

**By Frank Cimatu**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—THE NATION was on top of the world with the success of the Filipino mountaineers on Mt. Everest, but no less thrilled and proud were the members of the small Filipino community in the kingdom of Nepal.

"We were so proud of our team, and we were so proud to be part of it," said Alice Shakya, who owns the Namaste department store, one of the biggest in the capital city of Katmandu, and the Namaste shop in Baguio.

"Although there were only a few of us in Nepal, we tried to make the team feel at home and not get homesick," said Alice, who is married to Jiwan Shakya, a Nepalese metal craft artist and trader.

Alice accompanied five members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition—team leader Regie Pablo and members Karina Davondon, Janet Belarmino, Levi Nahayangan and Noelle Wenceslao—back to the country last week.

According to Alice, about 100 Filipinos, mostly scholars and missionaries, currently live in Nepal.

She said those permanently staying there and those who had married locals numbered only 20—"and we all decided to be the extended family of our climbers."

"We gave them Filipino food—*adobo* and *mongo*. Their favorite was *paksiw*, which is hard to get in Nepal because there is rarely any fish there. I had to use my connections," Alice said.

## 'Mabuhay'

The team members greatly appreciated the gesture.

Wrote FPMEE member Florentino "Jong" Narciso in his blog: *"Mabuhay ang Pinoy* abroad. We met people from Tuguegarao, Nueva Ecija, Cebu, Capiz, Davao, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo, Naga, Sorsogon [and others that I may have missed]. They prepared *sinigang, dinuguan, pata, ensalada* [and many more]. Pinoy food [is really delicious], especially after a week of *dhal bat, nasala, roti momo* [and other] Nepali food,"

On April 7, there was a general strike in Katmandu and most of the stores were closed, Narciso wrote.

"The good thing was, the Filipino community here in Nepal again hosted a wonderful dinner party for the team. A lot of Filipino food was prepared. Like, the *pochero* was really delicious. I guess wherever you are, the spirit of Filipino *bayanihan* goes with you," he wrote.

## Vinegar

Alice said the strangest food request came from Wenceslao.

"Noelle wanted vinegar. 'Give me *suka* and *alamang* (fish paste) and I will be happy' was what she said," Alice recalled.

Emma Pariyar, who owns an expedition and travel agency in Thamel, helped the team get guides, equipment and billeting.

Alice said she was happy not only for Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata, the first two Filipinos to reach the summit, but also for expedition leader Arturo Valdez and FPMEE member Fred Jamili.

"They told us it was their dream since they were very young to climb Mt. Everest, but that they decided that the young ones should do it for them. In a way they got their dream. It was also our dream because we never thought of climbing Everest," Alice said.

She added: "I was saddened only with Romi Garduce [the third Filipino to reach the summit]. He did not contact us Filipinos. We could have helped him.

"[The FPMEE members] promised to be back, and they were hoping that a Filipina would be at the top [of Everest next time]."

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# Palace: No to mining ban, yes to foreign ownership

From page A1

from the members of Congress about this," Claudio said. "I don't think we should be hasty to have any conclusion on what legislative moves should be done."

## Palace cancels presscon

The Mining Act had stirred controversy because it allowed for the first time foreign companies to have a stake in mineral exploration and production in the country.

The commission's chair, Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, was to have held a press conference in Malacañang on Friday on his group's recommendation but this was canceled at the last minute because Palace officials did not agree with its sweeping indictment of foreign mining investments in the country.

Bastes, instead, held his press conference outside the Palace.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo thanked the commission for its work and that she assured the public that its recommendations would be "carefully reviewed and considered."

Environmental groups have welcomed the factfinding commission's recommendations.

"We hope President Arroyo will listen to the clamor of the people of Albay and Sorsogon to… keep the mines in Rapu Rapu closed as the negative environmental, social and economic impacts on the communities far outweigh the alleged benefits," Greenpeace toxics campaigner Beau Baconguis said.

## Flagship project

She said it was clear from the start that the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project, once dubbed the flagship of the administration's program to revive the mining industry, threatened marine life in nearby bodies of water.

She said the government should form a team of experts to ensure that Lafayette Philippines Inc. cleaned up and rehabilitated the mine site and the surrounding marine areas.

"Moving forward will be meaningless without exacting full accountability from Lafayette and erring government officials," Banconguis said.

## Loss of 1,000 jobs

Defend Patrimony, a network of antimining groups, said the government should not cave in to Lafayette's warning that the closure of its project would result in the loss of $259 million in investments and about 1,000 jobs.

"The commission validates the concerns of the people that the LPI operation will do more harm than good to the environment… and people," Defend Patrimony spokesperson Trixie Concepcion said.

She said the commission's report validated the position of fisherfolk, church people, environmental groups, local government officials, local businessmen and scientists against mining operations.

## No test run

"The only way to save and rehabilitate the environment and the people of Rapu-Rapu is to permanently close Lafayette and to enact a moratorium on mining in the island," Concepcion said.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes has rejected Lafayette's request for a test run of its gold processing plant, saying he would wait for the recommendation of the commission.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources suspended the gold processing operation of Lafayette last year and fined the company P10.7 million for its alleged violation of the Clean Water Act.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, in a pastoral letter last January, called for the repeal of the Mining Act, saying that it "destroys life." The bishops expressed concern over what they said was the threat posed by large-scale mining operations to the people's livelihood and health and to the environment.

## Huge nickel reserves

"Our experiences of environmental tragedies and incidents with the mining transnational corporations belie all assurances of sustainable and responsible mining that the Arroyo administration is claiming," the bishops said.

Besides having gold, silver, copper and other minerals, the Philippines is believed to have 25 percent of the world's known nickel reserves, according to industry experts.

Estimates as of 2004 put at $1 trillion the worth of the country's mineral resources.

## P57 billion revenues if …

Local mining industry officials have said that the revitalization of the industry, which had been in decline for the past 20 years, could yield about P57 billion in additional revenues for the government.

"The Philippines can be one of the richest countries in the region if only it can get its act together and harness its mining potential," Leo Gamolo, general manager of mining firm Crew Group Philippines, wrote in the INQUIRER last February. *With a report from Blanche S. Rivera*

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# Daughter of first Sherpa on Everest married Pinoy

From page A1

"As my father always said, teamwork is the secret. Without teamwork, you cannot make it," she said.

## Marriage to a Filipino

Unknown to many, Tenzing Norgay's daughter married a Filipino and lived in Quezon City where she learned the language "enough to haggle in the market." (They met in Europe in the 1960s, where the then Belgium-based Nima, an employee of the Indian government, had been promoting Indian products like Darjeeling tea.)

Noli and Nima Galang lived in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines in the course of Noli's career as a graphic artist. They had a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.

After Noli died in 2003, Nima moved to Singapore. She now spends much of her time shuttling between Singapore and Canada where her daughter lives, and traveling to other countries.

But when she was young, school vacations were usually spent trekking in the Himalayas with her father.

He was a Buddhist, which was why he viewed mountaineering as a way of honoring nature, said Nima, who recalled that climbing the peaks of the Himalayan range required a lot of courage and stamina.

"I think it's easier now because there are small planes that can take [climbers and] the luggage to base camps. In the 1950s, we walked," she said.

## Youngest at 16

Nima said she reached as high as 23,000 feet when she tried to scale Mt. Cho-Oyu, at 26,750 feet the ninth highest mountain on earth.

She was then 16 years old, the youngest member of the first international women's expedition.

Nima said the ascent and descent each took three weeks. In some instances, she said, the climbing expedition would take as long as three months.

But her old man was all for it.

"My father encouraged us to climb. He said it did not matter if we were girls," said Nima, the second of Tenzing Norgay's six children. (Her mother, Tenzing Norgay's first wife, died in 1944.)

The successful British expedition on Everest in 1953 opened the world to the Sherpa mountaineer and his family.

Nima said she and her sister, Pempem, joined their father when he was awarded a medal in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London.

She said the Norgays also met with British royals during the latter's state visits to Nepal and India, where the family had a house in Darjeeling.

Tenzing Norgay died in Darjeeling on May 9, 1986.

## No more mountains

Nima said she had planned to climb more mountains but that marriage to a quiet, unathletic Filipino artist changed all that.

"I was not able to climb any mountain in the Philippines," she said, laughing. But she recalled with fondness her trips to Bohol and Northern Luzon.

She also took pride in saying that her brother, Jamling, reached the summit of Everest in 1996, following the trail opened by their father and Hillary in 1953.

Jamling would later recount the experience in the book, "Touching My Father's Soul—An Odyssey to the Top of Everest."

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# RP law firm cries GMA vendetta in HK raid, seizure

From page A1

"We want to know which government agency made the request so we can file administrative charges," an official of the law firm told the INQUIRER. He requested anonymity because he said he was not authorized to speak for the firm.

"The raid is illegal, those who carried it out are on a fishing expedition," said the source.

The ICAC's raid on Romulo Mabanta's office has been shrouded in mystery as the Hong Kong corruption watchdog refused to divulge the specific Philippine government agency that asked for the raid and for what purpose.

The official of the law firm said the April 12 raid had been a cause of embarrassment for the firm and spooked some clients.

"Because our chairman is against the President, this government has been unfairly bearing down on us," said the official.

The official was referring to one of the law firm's founding partners, Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo, who has been a thorn in President Macapagal-Arroyo's side and was the leader of a group in MBC which last year called for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

The Romulo Mabanta firm also represented the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) in its pending cases in Washington and Singapore seeking compensation from the government following a dispute over the idled Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

## RP gov't made request

In an email reply to the INQUIRER, ICAC senior press information officer Charmaine Mok said: "We understand that the government of the Philippines earlier made a request to the Hong Kong government through the Mutual Legal Assistance Unit of HK Department of Justice (DOJ).

"The request was referred to the ICAC by DOJ in accordance with the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance. The ICAC had acted on the advice of DOJ and a search warrant was obtained from the court."

Asked to elaborate on the ICAC's objective in conducting the raid, Mok said: "It will not be appropriate for us to disclose details of the investigation which is a matter (for) the Philippine authority. I'm sorry that we are not in a position to make further comments on the case."

## Gonzalez denies role

Even Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez appeared clueless over the raid.

In a phone interview, Gonzalez denied that it was his office which made the request for the raid. He said it was probably the Office of the Ombudsman that made the request in relation to the Piatco case.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez did not answer the INQUIRER's calls.

Ms Arroyo's anticorruption consultant who founded the ICAC in 1974, Tony Kwok, did not reply to the INQUIRER's queries.

In her email, Mok said Romulo Mabanta subsequently filed an ex-parte application for leave to judicial review, or an injunction to stop the transmission of seized documents to the Philippines. This was granted by a High Court judge on May 12.

## Documents seized sealed

"The judge expressed concern over the jurisdiction to challenge the validity of the search warrant. The judge invited counsel from both sides to file written submissions on whether the court has jurisdiction to quash the search warrant," Mok said.

The court's injunction would keep under seal for the meantime the documents seized from the law office.

The law firm claimed that ICAC's search warrant was unlawful because it was meant for RMBSA Corporate Services (a Romulo Mabanta subsidiary), which shared the same office with the law firm.

## Privilege material

The law firm argued that the ICAC seized materials that belonged to Romulo Mabanta and not to RMBSA Corp. and that these documents contained privilege material of its clients, including Piatco.

The source expressed belief that the raid was conducted to get confidential information that would help the government's case involving Piatco and its German shareholder, Fraport.

Romulo Mabanta represents Piatco in its case against the government before the International Chamber of Commerce-International Court of Arbitration in Singapore. The claims suit is parallel to the case filed by Fraport in the World Bank's International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington D.C.

## Last card

"They're looking for papers that will point to graft and corruption in the construction of Naia 3, which is their last card in the arbitration cases," the INQUIRER source said.

The government legal team is focusing on the $2 million Piatco allegedly paid to Alfredo Liongson ostensibly for public relations but which it claimed was part of a slush fund to bribe government officials.

The team has insisted that Liongson's funds were coursed through two companies formed by Romulo Mabanta in Hong Kong but the law firm has vehemently denied that Liongson was a client.

## Demolition job

"The government is grasping at straws. They have no evidence of graft and corruption against our client. It's not fair that records of the lawyers will be opened because they do not do that in other cases," the source said.

The source believed that the raid was part of a demolition job against the law firm because its chair, Romulo, had led the business sector's call for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Ms Arroyo had once referred to Romulo in a public gathering as "that Piatco lawyer."

## The firm

The Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles law firm, composed of 75 lawyers, is the only Philippine member of Lex Mundi, an international network of about 160 law firms.

The firm, which has a branch in Hong Kong, was cited as National Law Firm of the Year by the International Financial Law Review and the Asian Legal Business Magazine in 2005.

In 1993, it forced then Supreme Court Justice Hugo Gutierrez to resign over allegations he did not write his supposed decision in a case involving Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. *With PDI Research*

# Wage boards set deliberations

By Jerome Aning

THE REGIONAL TRIPARTITE WAGES AND Productivity Boards are now ready to process petitions for wage increases filed by various labor groups, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Sto. Tomas said the wage boards would soon conduct consultations and deliberations on the wage hike petitions, adding that "President Arroyo, in her Labor Day message, explicitly expressed her support for a reasonable wage hike hammered out by the RTWPBs."

Sto. Tomas said the government acknowledged the need to alleviate the burdens of Filipino workers amid the rising prices of goods and services brought about by the unabated rise in world oil prices.

On Tuesday, the moderate labor group Trade Union Congress of the Philippines filed a petition for a P75 across-the-board wage increase for workers in the National Capital Region.

If approved, this would bring the minimum wage in the metropolis to P400.

TUCP president Democrito Mendoza said the P75 daily increase was badly needed by workers to cope with the increasing prices of commodities.

"It's essential if they are to meet the basic needs of their families, even if only partially, and if the country is to give meaning and substance to the policy of equitable distribution of income and wealth," Mendoza said.

But Rene Soriano, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said they would oppose the TUCP's petition when the board conducts a public hearing.

Labor groups affiliated with TUCP also filed this month P75-wage increase petitions before the boards in Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

The militant Alliance of Progressive Labor has pending wage hike petitions in Central Visayas and Davao, amounting to P95 and P150, respectively.

Other militant labor groups such as the Kilusang Mayo Uno and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino are separately pushing for a P125-legislated nationwide and across-the-board wage increase.

Sto. Tomas said that through the boards, a middle ground could be reached, as these boards were well represented by tripartite constituents— the government, labor and management.

Under Republic Act No. 6727 or the Wage Rationalization Act, each board, chaired by the DOLE regional director, has representatives from labor and management and from the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry who would help determine the extent of wage adjustments necessary in accordance with the employers' capability and the prevailing economic situation.

Sto. Tomas said the wage boards in the NCR and Regions 6, 7, 10 and 11 had started evaluating the merits of the petitions.

In the absence of a petition for a wage hike, the wage boards in other regions may also initiate a new wage order motu propio if warranted.

"The wage boards continuously monitor economic conditions and may issue new wage orders even without petitions for a wage hike to alleviate the plight of minimum wage earners in their respective regions," she said.

RTWPBs normally take an average of 45 days from the conduct of the first public hearing to issue a wage order, according to NWPC officer in charge Executive Director Rebecca Calzado.

APL secretary general Joshua Mata earlier accused employers and government representatives on the boards with colluding with each other to come up with wage adjustments that were lower than the workers had sought.

# Quezon towns still face peril – experts

AS THE RAINS USHER IN THE wet season, experts yesterday warned that the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar (Reina) in Quezon, where thousands died and were displaced in past flash floods and landslides, were still vulnerable to the same disasters, including a tsunami.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology presented the Reina project, a multi-hazard mapping and information awareness campaign funded by the United Nations Development Programme, to local and provincial officials of Quezon.

"2004 was not the worst [year] for Reina. In the future, there might be bigger floods," said Oskar Cruz of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration during his presentation of the Reina flood hazard assessment

The Reina area, however, which was the hardest hit by the four typhoons that entered the country in December 2004, is now a model for community disaster preparedness.

"We'll upscale this project and replicate it in other communities that are also prone to storm surges and flash floods," said Office of Civil Defense administrator Gen. Glen Rabonza. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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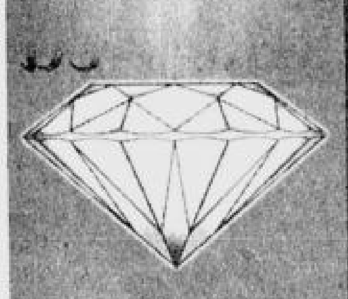

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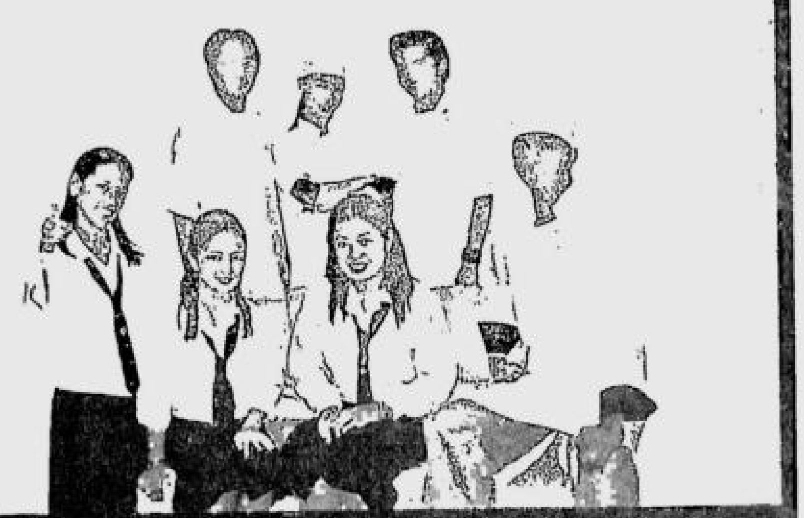

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**PRACTICING** in New Zealand, Dr. Ted Esguerra is an "indispensable caretaker" of the Everest team's health.

# Doc Ted: RP's unsung hero on Mt. Everest

From page A1

climbers. "He has really become popular here. It shows the goodwill of the team, of Filipinos," Valdez said.

AMS symptoms—among them headaches, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, dizziness and difficulty in sleeping—manifest when the body is not able to acclimatize properly at high altitudes.

Esguerra, himself an accomplished mountaineer, has conducted studies on the effect of high altitudes on climbers with the US Air Force.

He is described in the FPMEE website as "an indispensable caretaker of the team's physical health on Everest."

## Impressive

Valdez also said climbers from other expeditions from all over the world were impressed by the achievement of Filipino mountaineers Leo Oracion, Erwin "Pastor" Emata and Romi Garduce.

"They were very impressed by Leo, who actually helped open the summit by fixing the ropes for other expeditions. They were also surprised at the speed of Pastor," Valdez said.

Oracion made it to the summit of Everest on May 17, after a 15-hour trek from Camp 4 (8,000 meters or 26,000 feet). He climbed with 30 other mountaineers, and was held up by "traffic" along the way.

Emata followed suit on May 18 with a blistering 7-hour climb to the peak from Camp 4.

Garduce, 37, also made it to the summit the next day despite bad weather. After descending to Camp 4 to rest overnight Saturday, he will try to make it down to Base Camp if the weather permits.

## Oxygen

Valdez recounted how alarmed he was that Oracion trekked from Camp 3 (6,800 meters or 22,300 feet) to Camp 4 without oxygen.

"I was very upset and afraid that his oxygen supply had run low because of waiting too long for his big group [of other climbers]. So I ordered him to use oxygen from Camp 4 to the summit," Valdez said.

Even then, Oracion ran out of oxygen descending from the summit to Camp 4. "But we are still quite lucky he made it back safely," Valdez said.

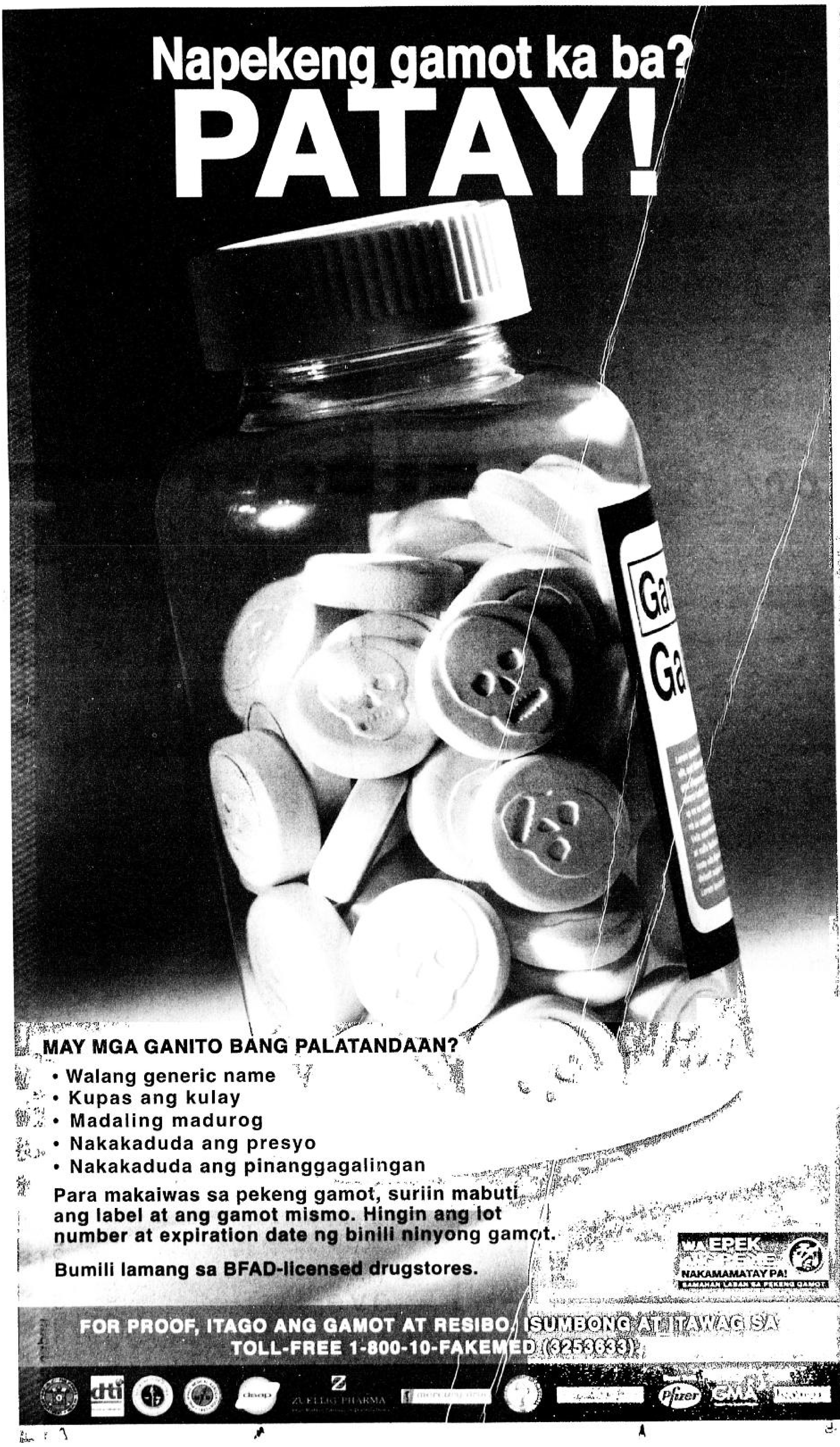
## 4-day descent

According to Valdez, Oracion and Emata are well and resting at Base Camp. They are scheduled to pack up and break camp today, and start the four-day descent to the Lukla airport.

From there, they will hitch a ride to Katmandu, where the Filipino community is waiting to welcome them with a celebration. *(See related story on Page A10)*

Oracion and Emata, both 32, are expected

**DOC TED:** An accomplished mountaineer himself



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# Senate set to pass anti-terror bill

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF THE environment, such as toxic spills, and the disruption of information and communication networks, including the Internet, are among 11 types of terrorism defined in a bill that is up for approval by the Senate. The penalties range from life in prison to death.

The bill is one of seven measures the Senate hopes to pass before Congress winds up its current session on June 9.

The bill is a consolidation of five antiterror bills filed by Senators Manuel Villar, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Alfredo Lim.

Senate deliberations on the bill are to start on Monday against a backdrop of apprehension voiced by Lacson that the administration would use the new law to crack down on its political foes.

The bill defines terrorism as the "premeditated, threatened, or actual use of violence, force, coercion, intimidation, or any means of destruction perpetrated against a person or persons, property, environment or the government, with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear or chaos to the general public or a segment thereof."

Acts of terrorism include "willfully destroying the environment, including the natural resources in land, water or air, such as forests, marine and mineral resources, or intentionally causing oil or toxic spillages, or other similar acts of destruction against the environment that threaten ecological security, or natural cultural property."

"Attacking or threatening to attack the cyberspace, by destroying the actual machinery of the information and communication infrastructure, disrupting the information technology underlying the Internet, government or private computer networks or systems, or committing any unlawful act against information and communication systems" are another type of terrorism.

Other types are:

- Causing or threatening to cause death or serious physical or mental harm to a person or persons;
- Depriving or threatening to deprive a person of his or her liberty;
- Assassinating or threatening officials within the constitutional line of succession, or any internationally protected person;
- Causing or threatening to cause serious risk to the health or safety of the general public or any segment of the public;
- Causing or threatening to cause substantial damage or wanton destruction or resorting to arson on critical infrastructure or any public or private property;
- Causing or threatening to cause serious interference with or destruction of an essential public or private service, facility or system, other than as a result of lawful advocacy, protest, dissent or stoppage of work;
- Hijacking or threatening to hijack any kind of aircraft, electric or railroad train, passenger bus or other means of transportation or public conveyance, or piracy of ship or sea vessel;
- Manufacturing, processing, selling, acquiring, possessing, using, diverting, supplying or transporting chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agents, equipment or instruments that would directly or indirectly endanger the safety of one or more individuals, or to cause mass destruction or great damage to property;
- Manufacturing, selling, acquiring, supplying, disposing, using or possessing explosives, bombs, grenades, projectiles, devices or other lethal weapons, substances or machinery.

## RP, China, Vietnam tighten Spratlys security

THE PHILIPPINES, China and Vietnam are to strengthen security cooperation in the Spratly islands after an apparent pirate attack left four Chinese dead there, the top Philippine military official said Friday.

"We have agreed that we will continue our direct communication in the area so that these problems... piracy, smuggling, transnational crimes... can be resolved," said Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

Senga held talks with his Vietnamese and Chinese counterparts last week following an attack in late April in the Spratlys on a Chinese fishing vessel that left four crewmen dead and three wounded.

Senga said investigation found that no Philippine government vessels were in the area and that the raid was "apparently by pirates."

Chinese press reports earlier said the attackers were believed to have come from the Philippines.

The Spratlys consist of more than 100 small islands and reefs in the South China Sea that are claimed partially or entirely by Brunei, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

All claimants but Brunei have troops posted in parts of the islands. *AFP; AP*

## Japanese barred from RP

THE BUREAU OF IMmigration barred four Japanese nationals from entering the country on Friday after they allegedly abused their Filipino wives in Japan.

The four—Yoshiake Nagae, 35, of Hirakata City, Osaka prefecture; Tsukasa Minakuchi, 56, of Kida-gun, Kagawa; Takashi Omoto, 43, of Amagasaki City, Hyogo, and Yasuyoshi Kawashima, 43, of Aki City, Kochi—"inflicted atrocities against their Filipino wives mentally, emotionally and physically," according to Philippine Consul in Osaka Ma. Lourdes Ramiro-Lopez.

Lopez, however, did not give any details of the ordeal the women experienced at the hands of their husbands in her report to the DFA in Manila.

DFA officials said the wives, who had returned to the Philippines, wanted their husbands blacklisted "to prevent them from entering the country after making grave threats against them and to prevent them from victimizing other Filipinos."

Based on the request of acting Foreign Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Domingo Lucenario Jr., BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. ordered the Japanese nationals placed on the immigration blacklist on May 12. *Jerome Aning*

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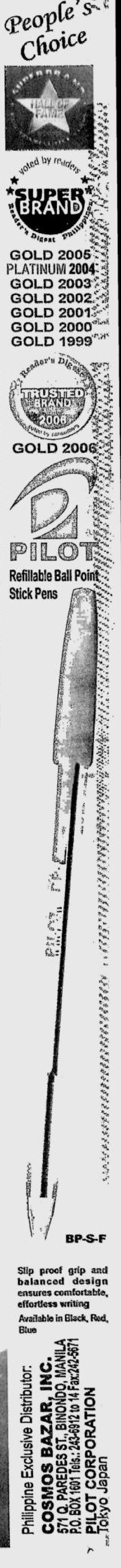
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# OPINION

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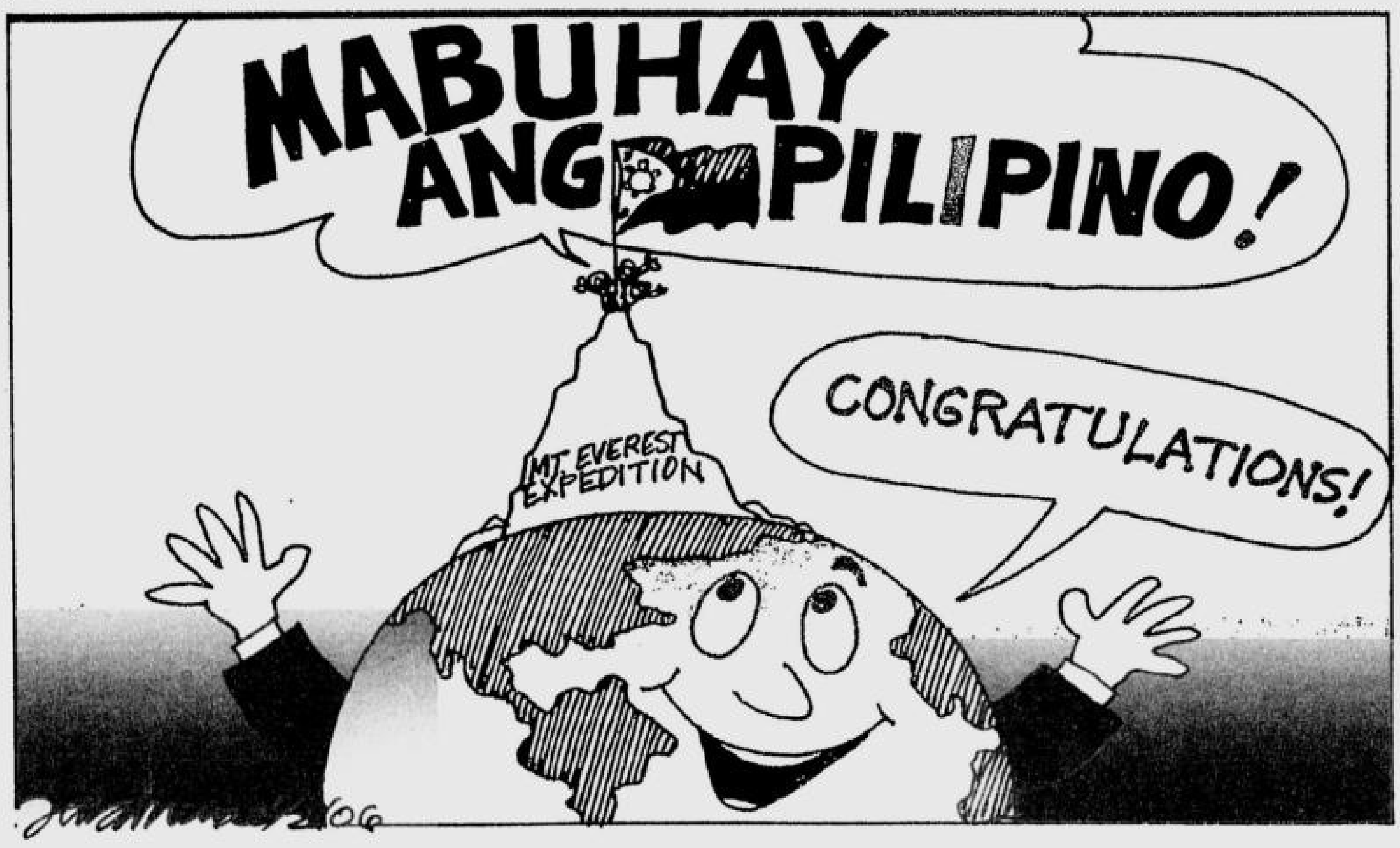

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!
CONGRATULATIONS!
MT. EVEREST EXPEDITION
2006

## Da Vinci decoded

**EDITORIAL**

SOME MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL are anxious over the possible impact of the movie "The Da Vinci Code," and that is only to be expected. The novel on which the movie is based has sold millions of copies around the world in three years. Its rather lurid premise—that Jesus did not die on the cross but married Mary Magdalene and established a dynasty—runs directly counter to the core of the Christian faith. A Hollywood movie can only spread the anti-Word with greater efficiency.

A few have called for a ban on the movie. But a ban is not, and cannot be, the answer. The international success of the "Code" suggests that it is a "sign of the times," as one theologian in Rome phrased it. It represents a challenge to the Christian faith—especially in terms of the relationship between religion and modern mass-media culture; a ban would only be the equivalent of burying one's head deeper in the sand.

The right response must lie in critical engagement. The movie actually presents the Catholic faithful with a teaching opportunity; they should seize it.

In the Philippines, the extreme response is exemplified by the position of Bishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa, who says the movie should be banned because it is "blasphemous"; and by the city council of Manila, which actually banned the movie in the nation's capital for three reasons.

The council resolution denounced the movie (which none of the councilors had yet seen) as "undoubtedly offensive and contrary to established religious beliefs which cannot take precedence over the right of the persons involved in the film to freedom of expression." For good measure, the resolution also said the movie violated both the Revised Penal Code (by being "contrary to morals, good customs and religious beliefs") and a 1993 city ordinance (which banned "obscene, indecent and immoral movies").

We believe Bishop Arguelles and the councilors of Manila are mistaken. Let's set aside the related issue of alternative viewing options; in this day and age, a banned movie is guaranteed to show up in VCDs or on the Internet, or perhaps even in third-generation mobile phones.

Let's talk principles.

Religious freedom, in the modern context of our constitutional democracy, must mean not only the freedom to practice one's religious beliefs, but also the freedom not to believe. It is a right that protects both the devotee and the skeptic, the orthodox as well as the heretical.

Thus, in a predominantly Christian nation like ours, religious freedom must include space even for those beliefs or practices that Christians will find blasphemous. If we were to hold otherwise, then the privileging of the Christian religion would violate both the letter and spirit of our Constitution. It would lead, again, to "an establishment of religion."

Closely related to the right of religious freedom is the even more basic right of free speech and free expression. The author and publisher of the book enjoys this right; the movie version, therefore, should enjoy exactly the same guarantees as the book on which it is based. That no one has seen fit to suggest the banning of the book tells us something about those who have suggested the banning of the movie. For them, freedom of expression is dangerous only when the disturbing content is coursed through mass media, but not when coursed through that quaint relic of old media called the book.

But if freedom of expression does not depend absolutely on content, neither does it depend on the medium in use.

Archbishop of Jaro Angel Lagdameo, speaking for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, issued a pastoral statement that strikes the right note of critical engagement. The statement attacks the distortions in the book and the movie, but instead of calling for a ban, it calls on "communities of faith" to "deepen" their knowledge of scripture and tradition, to "collaborate with historians, scholars of the arts, and scientists in shaping a culture with depth and integrity," and to rededicate themselves to the gospel mission of spreading the Word.

It echoes what Fr. Bruno Esposito of the Angelicum in Rome said, in a forum on the movie last week: "The challenge is directed to us, ourselves, not to those who sell these books and films."

## PAL always late

### SEPARATE OPINION

*Isagani A. Cruz*

LAST WEEK I ENDURED ANOTHER INCONvenience with PAL, impatiently called PAL Always Late by thousands of its passenger over these many years.

My wife and I, together with our children and their children, along with several other close relatives, had tickets from PAL for its Flight 853 to Cebu in the morning of May 12. As directed, we arrived at the airport at 6:30 a.m., three hours before the scheduled departure time at 9:30.

We were supposed to board at 9 o'clock but Gate 2 remained closed although we were not unduly disturbed because we were familiar with the airline's lack of punctuality. It was announced later that our flight would be delayed but many of us calmly took it took it for granted. Ten-thirty came and went, then 11:30 too, but we were still not yet air-borne.

A voice on the microphone assured us that some repairs were being done on the plane we were taking and we would be boarding soon. We never did unless you interpret soon as forever. After more fretful waiting, I went to the manager to ask for (not demand) an explanation. She didn't have any except that they were trying their best to solve their problem, which was, unhappily, also ours.

An irascible crowd had already gathered at Gate 2 and some excitable persons had become noisily angry. They berated the PAL employees for their inefficiency, even stupidity, although I myself considered them mere whipping boys for their inept but generous employer. As our immediate concern was how to take our lunch, I asked the manager if PAL would feed us while the flight was still being delayed. She said yes like Madame Roland going to the guillotine.

She directed us to a crummy restaurant in the airport where we could eat if we presented our boarding passes. Some 300 hungry persons then lined up to receive a small plastic box containing some rice and a few pieces of beef, *adobo*, or some other indifferent viand, together with a cup of tea or juice. The meal, which was hardly appetizing, was probably intended to ward off any damage suit.

At noon, the somewhat pacified crowd was assured that another plane had arrived to substitute for the delayed flight. We would begin boarding at 12:30 p.m. The prospective passengers again gathered at the gate, which at 12:15 still remained closed. One of my sons lost his temper and shouted, "It's 12:15!" then "It's 12: 25!" and more stridently "It's 12:30!" I prayed he would not have a stroke.

The crowd echoed his disapproval until the PAL employees (the manager had disappeared, probably in tears) finally began the boarding. The flight started at about 1:30 and was rocky several times, maybe because the plane itself had become nervous owing to the displeasure of the passengers. The crash of that plane would have been the climax to our misadventure but thank God it did not happen.

Our experience last Saturday was only one of my several memorable disappointments with PAL.

I suffered a worse annoyance with PAL on my way to Dapitan City to attend a conference sponsored by the National Centennial Commission in 1996. My flight was delayed in Cebu (also) for more than eight intolerable hours. Hundreds of delegates to that important meeting, including some high government officials, were sought to be appeased with an also discounted lunch. The PAL station manager was also not to blame, but he also took much of the scolding from the irate crowd.

Some years ago, returning to Manila in an early afternoon PAL flight, I could not retrieve my bag because it had not been loaded on the plane. The manager dismissively said, "You can come back and collect it at 6 o'clock tonight." That buffoon must have thought I was a simpleton like him, but I immediately disabused him. As I had angrily demanded, my bag was delivered with his abject apologies at my residence that night.

The same thing happened to me when I flew to Cebu (again) for a speaking engagement before an audience of law deans. I was supposed to talk that night but could not do so for lack of the proper attire that was in my missing bag. It had again been misloaded. I complained to PAL and demanded reparation, threatening to file a damage suit where my fellow deans would testify on my behalf. That case was amicably settled to my complete satisfaction.

There was also the time when I flew to Leyte to meet with a client. Our plane circled several times over the airport at Tacloban but did not land and instead turned back to Manila because, as we learned later, of a faulty landing gear. In 1993, returning from a vacation (in Cebu again), I was told that the PAL plane to fly us back to Manila was unavailable for some reason. The PAL station manager had to accommodate me and my companions in a rival company's airplane.

My most memorable experience with PAL was when in 1987 Lina Yamashita of the UP Law Center, for which I was going to lecture, called me up to suggest that my wife and I go by car instead of by PAL. Without asking why (as a lawyer should have done) I agreed and returned our tickets. Arriving in Baguio by bus, we were shocked to learn that the plane we would have taken had crashed with no survivors.

If that PAL plane had been delayed as usual, could it have luckily escaped its appointment in Samara? Its famed inefficiency might have saved scores of unwary lives.

## God's plan

### MOMENTS

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A YOUNG MAN who walked over to the table of an elderly couple and said: "Lolo, I can't help but be inspired and edified. I saw you buy a burger, give half of it to your wife, and you just kept looking at her while she ate."

The old man looked at him and replied: "Oh, that. You see we have only one set of dentures. I had to wait for her to finish her half."

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Jn: 15, 9-17), twice the Lord bids his disciples to love one another. But more than a command, this was His last wish, His earnest request on the night before He died. His whole vision and mission in life were summed up in these words: "Love one another as I have loved you." Are you carrying out His wish and command in your life?**

* * *

The Lord calls us His friends, not slaves. He treats us as His friends because He has revealed to us everything. "I no longer call you slaves because a slave does not know what his master is doing." Do we know what our leaders are doing? Do we know what their plans are? Are we aware of their agenda? Leaders who are not transparent and who lie to us are masters who treat us as slaves. They are fooling us. If so, then they are not our friends.

* * *

**There was this penitent who remained restless even after I had heard his confession. When I asked him whether he already told me everything, he said that there were still some things that he did not reveal. As long as he was holding back, he was not free, and he could not move on. As individuals and as a nation, we too cannot be free and cannot move on as long as we have not told and we have not been told of everything.**

* * *

So blessed to be again at the "Sanctuary" in Fatima, where thousands of pilgrims all over the world visit and experience the loving embrace and unconditional love and welcome of the Blessed Mother. A sanctuary is a place where one feels welcomed and finds peace, refuge and love. In relation to our Lord's command to love one another, let us ask ourselves: Do people find in us a sanctuary or an armory?

* * *

**It is interesting to note that the Blessed Mother appeared to Bernadette in a grotto, in a cave in Lourdes. Again, in line with our Lord's command to love one another, let us ask ourselves: Am I a cave that takes in people or am I a wall that shuts out people?**

* * *

It is good to be reminded again and again that we are all pilgrims in this world. We are on the road. We are just passing by. We must learn to travel light, otherwise our journey will be onerous, if not all together erroneous. And may we learn to be generous to our fellow-pilgrims. Yes, let's share the load to our fellow-travelers on the road. By the way, there is no race or contest on the road. All we need to remember on the road are the Lord's words: "Love one another."

* * *

**As you have noticed, the rains have come. Summer is over. Yes, summer is not forever.**

**Let it be a reminder for us that life is not one big sunshine and summer. For those who have been so blessed with so much money and power in this life, we hope that you leave behind fruits that will last. Yes, to whom much sunshine is given, much sunshine is also required. Let us learn to share with one another.**

* * *

As we face the uncertain and difficult future amid the rising prices of commodities and miserable political forecasts, let us be assured that God knows and makes known His beautiful plans for us. "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29, 11) In line with this command to love one another, may we also carry out His master plan—that is, to prosper, not to harm, to give hope and give one another a future. If only we live according to His plan! If only we carry out His plan!

* * *

**While many of us are so busy working for our health plan, retirement plan and so many other plans, let us not forget God's plan for all of us—the Eternal Life Plan. He wants us all to go back to Him at the end of our earthly pilgrimage. The road to take us there is the long, narrow, winding road of love.**

* * *

Bantay Matanda Inc. invites you to a lay forum on May 27, 2006, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at Jannssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 373-2262 or 0917-4167849.

* * *

**A moment with the Lord:**

*Lord help me to love and to follow your wish, your plan and your command. Amen.*

# ‘The Da Vinci Code’ and the Mayuga Report

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

TWO OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL LITERARY works in recent years are "The Da Vinci Code" authored by Dan Brown and the Mayuga report written by Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga with help from five other senior officers of the armed forces. One is fiction based on true facts; the other could be based on true facts but appears to be fiction because of the manner of its presentation to the Filipino people.

A film version of "The Da Vinci Code" is currently showing in most theaters worldwide—except in the City of Manila. The Mayuga Report, on the other hand, is probably the most closely guarded document in AFP history, supposedly because of its national security implications.

Let us look at the record.

First, on the authors:

- Brown, 43, is the oldest of three children born and raised in Exeter, New Hampshire. An English teacher, Brown became a full-time writer in 1996. His first three novels were not too successful, but his fourth, "The Da Vinci Code," has turned out to be a runaway bestseller hitting the top of the New York Times bestseller list during the first week of its release in 2003. One of his earlier works, co-authored with his wife, is a humor book, "187 Men to Avoid: A Guide for the Romantically Frustrated Woman." In the book, one of the items was "men who write self-help books for women." He is married to Blythe Newlon, a woman 12 years his senior whom he describes as "the most astonishingly talented woman I have ever known."

Mayuga, 55, is the current flag officer in command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy. However, the Mayuga Report was written when he was still the AFP inspector general and—as I mentioned in an earlier column—he became Navy chief in December 2005 under unusual circumstances. His assumption-of-command ceremony was abruptly cancelled at the last minute only to be rescheduled a few days later. Apparently, someone was moving heaven and earth to get the position. It reminded me of the Southcom snafu a few months earlier: Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin was scheduled to become Southcom chief, only to be kicked upstairs and replaced by an officer in charge.

On the literary works themselves:

- The status. "The Da Vinci Code" is now one of the most popular books of all time with 60.5 million copies sold worldwide as of this time. It has also been translated into 44 languages and the New York Times estimates Brown's income from the book sales alone as $250 million. The paperback version has 490 pages.

The Mayuga Report remains to this day one of the best kept secrets in our country. No one knows how many copies there are. And it has not been released for public reading or consumption. It probably has anywhere from 50 to 500 pages, including attachments. (Just guessing!)

On the Church's reaction:

- While Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales has denounced both the book and the movie, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has not called for the banning of the movie and accepts its release for showing in the country. The Opus Dei has carried out a campaign code-named "Operation Lemonade." As Juan Manuel Mora, director of the Opus Dei Communications Department put it, "If you are handed lemons, make lemonade." (Time Magazine, April 24, 2006 issue)

The CBCP has called for a full disclosure of the Mayuga Report.

On classification:

- The Movie Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), led by Marissa Laguardia, has rated "The Da Vinci Code" as "R-18," that is, strictly for adults, citing the importance of maintaining freedom of speech in the country.

The administration has given the Mayuga Report an "X" rating, meaning not for public viewing. An "X" rating generally means that there is too much sex, too much bloody violence, or too much nudity. Since very few people have seen the Mayuga Report, perhaps we can conclude that it has too much sex, too much violence and shows the emperor without clothes.

On the reviews:

- Critics crucified the film at the recent Cannes film festival. Apparently, the viewers found the two-and-a-half-hour movie a drag. A few of them walked out before the end of the movie.

Perhaps, the Mayuga Report might turn out to be more exciting, if only the administration would allow its release.

On the controversy:

- The main controversy in the book centers on the theme that Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene and had children with her. Many Christian leaders all over the world have denounced this as blasphemy.

The main controversy in the Mayuga Report has to do with the alleged involvement of senior generals in irregularities during the 2004 presidential election. According to Mayuga, the report clears the generals. But since there has been a distinct lack of transparency in the presentation of the report, many people believe that instead of clearing the generals, the report has actually left them "twisting in the wind."

* * *

On the recent Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) meeting on Charter change:

A number of retired officers have called in to express their dismay at the use of AGFO as a forum for government propaganda. They are calling on the AGFO leadership to provide equal time and opportunity for anti-Cha-cha advocates to present their side to the officers. Otherwise, they feel that people may come to view the AGFO as an attached office of the government's Philippine Information Agency.

# Winners and losers in relocation

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

"POOR PEOPLE LIVING ALONG THE RAILROAD tracks from Caloocan to Los Baños have come to me several times to ask my help with their relocation problems," is how a letter from Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop of Manila, to Vice President Noli de Castro begins. "I met with them and government officials ... and made suggestions based on what was reported there regarding children's education, family income, distant relocation and excessive concern for cut-off dates and deadlines. People have since reported to me that not much progress has been made in these matters."

The letter was hand-delivered to De Castro, who is also chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the overall coordinating body for housing, by representatives of the urban poor during a rally last May 15. So far, nothing has been heard from De Castro about the letter.

The urban poor families are being relocated to make way for the rehabilitation of old tracks or the laying down of new tracks for both the NorthRail and SouthRail projects. And while nobody contests the need for a more efficient railway system in Luzon (and for the tracks to be cleared of obstructions and of the congested settlements along the tracks), people say this doesn't have to come at the cost of lives lost and families destroyed.

What the people and the cardinal say is that despite the promises made and millions (billions?) of pesos allocated, the relocation sites are still not prepared. A "moratorium" on demolitions now, according to a press release by the Urban Poor Assòciates, an NGO working on urban poor issues, will give government time to give more attention to children's schooling and to improving family income in the relocation area, and to help house everyone, including those who missed the cut-off dates. They also demand that the HUDCC stop threatening or scaring people into agreeing to be relocated.

* * *

**"IT is clear the situation in the relocation area of Cabuyao is poor," the cardinal continues in his letter. "Note that hunger has doubled since people were relocated; the water is not potable without boiling; there is still no light; family incomes have fallen to P5,568 on average a month from a pre-relocation level of P6,500-P7,500.**

**"There are no jobs and only 2 percent of families benefit from livelihood training. Lastly, it is unlikely there will be classes for 4,000 children in the relocation area in June."**

**Some 50,000 families from Caloocan City to Calamba stand to be evicted. They are currently threatened with eviction due to the SouthRail Project. Some 22,000 families (18,000 on the NorthRail and 4,000 on the SouthRail) have already been displaced.**

**The Urban Poor Associates conducted a research in the North and South relocation sites and found that while 70 percent of the relocatees have built their homes, only 50 percent of them occupy the homes they built at the North relocation sites. Seventy-two percent of the respondents in the South relocation site said they experience lack of food; only 36 percent said they experienced lack of food when they were still living along the railway tracks.**

* * *

IN DISCUSSIONS of the problems bedeviling the NorthRail and then the SouthRail project, the "intransigence" of the poor families living along the tracks—specifically, their refusal to budge from locations where they had lived for decades and presented a clear danger for themselves as well as for the railway system—was cited by many officials as the reason the projects could not get underway.

But it now appears that the affected poor families, once they were convinced to move out from along the railways, were quite willing to cooperate, only to find that the promises made by government, through the HUDCC, meant nothing. Far from finding a habitable environment on which they could raise their children and engage in gainful work, the families landed on relocation sites barely equipped with the necessary infrastructure (potable water, sewerage, electricity) and so far from their places of work, the reason they now find themselves going hungry.

If the North and South railway projects are deemed so necessary for development and the efficient movement of people, then the government should do all it can to convince the poor, who are supposed to be the primary beneficiaries of development, to do their share by agreeing to be relocated. But it can do so only if the relocation assures them that they can enjoy not just the same but even a better quality of life.

* * *

**THE GOVERNMENT'S record in demolitions and relocations is not all that unassailable. So many times, relocation has proven to be not just a waste of people's money, but also destructive of the environment, corrosive to family relations and violative of basic human rights.**

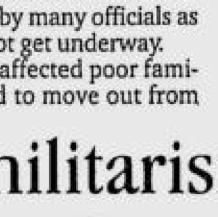
**The program doesn't even assure that the relocated families will move out of the city permanently. When they find the relocation sites too distant and bereft of basic amenities, many of them move back to the city, as "informal settlers" or even as street people.**

**Oftentimes, the male breadwinner leaves his family in the distant relocation site to seek work in the city. At first, he may visit on weekends and maintain a semblance of family life, but as time moves on, he is more likely to take up with another partner and found a new family of his own, abandoning the previous one.**

**Finding a more humane and efficient approach to relocation is not just an imperative of charity, but ultimately of good governance. Mr. Vice President, there is a "win-win" solution staring you in the face, all you need to do is recognize it.**

# The turn to militarism

**PUBLIC LIVES**



*Randy David*

ON FEB. 24TH, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO issued Proclamation 1017 declaring a state of national emergency. Invoking her powers as commander in chief, Ms Arroyo ordered the armed forces "to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence, as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion and to enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees....promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The maintenance of law and order is a function of the police—not of the military. That is the reason the Constitution says the armed forces may be called out for this purpose only "whenever it becomes necessary." In its decision on Proclamation 1017, the Supreme Court affirmed the President's power to call out the armed forces. But it rejected the attempt to stretch this power. The Court ruled that the military may only be used to suppress lawless violence, and not for law enforcement in general. The Court also reminded Ms Arroyo that she has no authority to enact decrees.

The SC ruling recognized the right of the President to declare "a state of national emergency." But it emphatically rejected the claim that she could thus exercise emergency powers, "such as the takeover of privately owned public utility or business," without an explicit authority from Congress.

Malacañang's attempt to exercise greater powers than those actually invoked did not escape the high court's sharp eyes. *Hindi nakalusot, ika nga*. But this is not an isolated instance. The use of the law and of constitutional procedures as a veneer for venal activities has been the pattern under Ms Arroyo's government. Here is a militarist mindset lurking behind legal language.

When did the Arroyo government turn militarist? I would say, since Ms Arroyo began preparing for the 2004 elections. This decision alienated most of her civil society allies. It made her and her political survival almost completely dependent on the retired generals she brought into the Cabinet. They became her essential conduit to the generals in the field, some of whom—as the Garci tapes revealed—played key roles in ensuring her incredible lead in Mindanao. The transfer of retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita from the defense department to the powerful Office of the Executive Secretary in October 2004 was a turning point.

On the 33rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, Secretary Ermita issued this order to the police: "The rule of calibrated preemptive response is now in force, in lieu of maximum tolerance. The authorities will not stand aside while those with ill intent are herding a witting or unwitting mass of people and inciting them into actions that are inimical to public order, and the peace of mind of the national community." The Supreme Court has since struck down this patently unconstitutional order.

In three separate rulings, the Court upheld the supremacy of civil liberties in our society. But the practice of going after individuals suspected of locally mobilizing for rallies has continued. The military is at the forefront of this campaign. It has placed urban poor communities who participate in mass mobilizations under surveillance. Military operatives routinely identify and visit suspected leaders in their homes. In *"sonas"* reminiscent of the Japanese occupation, they herd residents in the plaza to watch a video on the enemies of the state. The same campaign has been going on in the provinces, where almost a hundred known activist-organizers operating in the open legal arena have been murdered since Ms Arroyo became President.

The disturbing absence of any public outcry over these killings appears to have emboldened the perpetrators. The hit squads are operating on an almost daily basis now. The latest victim, Annaliza Abonador, a leader of a women's group in Bataan and an organizer for the Kapisanan Para Sa Pambansang Demokrasya, an affiliate of the Laban ng Masa coalition, was shot in cold blood by motorcycle-riding assassins inside the gift shop she was tending.

The targets are all organizers from the Left. The police and the military have, of course, denied any involvement in these summary executions. A police general has suggested that these may be intra-movement murders. This idea, which rides on the memory of the movement's purges in the late '80s, is preposterous. There is no known ongoing purge within the Left today. Neither can these murders be viewed as outcomes of the conflict between rival factions of the Left. The extreme measures employed by the present government have made militants forget their differences, if only for the moment.

What the public fears most about the military running the government is already upon us. The intolerance for dissent, the suppression of civil liberties, and the harassment of communities through "sonas" have become routine under the Arroyo government. These tactics cannot be justified as aspects of the fight against communism. These can only be viewed as the last weapons of an unpopular regime that is unable to secure itself by legitimate means.

The kindest thing one can say about Ms Arroyo at this point is that she has become an unwitting tool of a consortium of militarists and legal technicians who prey upon her political weakness. But, on the other hand, it is probably more accurate to say that she is aware she has reached the end of the line, and now she has only two options left. She either quietly resigns, or she brings down the whole country with her. My fear is that she has no qualms about doing the latter.

* * *

*Comments to public.lives@gmail.com*

# Drunk on Dumaguete

**REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE**

*Patricia Evangelista*

THE SEA IS BLUE AND GREEN, AND SCATTERED WITH a thousand diamonds, but right now I'm sitting inside a coffee shop, a full block away. I tried to write by the sea, I really did, but melting under a scorching summer sun with the concrete pavement roasting my backside to a crisp isn't quite as inspiring as I thought it would be.

There are 11 of us here for the Dumaguete National Writer's Workshop led by Dr. Edith Tiempo, who is "Mom" to half the writing community in the country. We sit wide-eyed, soaking in wisdom, learning literary lore, discouraged one moment and encouraged the next. If there's anything I've learned, and learned well, it's that I know very little, and that I have a long, long way to go. No wonder so many writers have gone mad—how can anyone stay sane working in a world where a misplaced comma can spell doom?

I read somewhere that the Chinese character for "crisis" is *wei-ji*, represented by two symbols: danger over opportunity. I'm beginning to think of writing as walking a thin line—cannons to the right of you, cannons to the left of you, and the voice of Mom, authoritative in the background: "Don't disappoint me." I'm guessing everyone has someone's voice somewhere in the back of their heads.

I've found that there's a certain freedom that comes with being here, a sort of sovereignty over self. In Manila, I'm the girl who cannot sing, cannot dance and cannot swim. I tried to sing once for a class musical of "Aladdin" in second year college. The play was over when my friend JP went up to me and asked, "Why didn't you sing?" I was annoyed—I sang, I told him. I sang twice, and he should know. He looked confused. "I thought you were reciting a poem."

Here in Dumaguete, I've sung in tricycles, in the shower, at the dining table, sometimes alone, sometimes in chorus with the rest of the writing fellows. We've run the gamut of the Beach Boys, Aegis and Smoky Mountain. The other night, at Mom's glass-walled home, somebody brought out soda and vodka. I don't think it was the alcohol that had us singing for a good two hours—without the benefit of music, microphone, or anything resembling melody. Writers, they say, teeter on the edge of madness. I think some of us fell off. Someone would ask "Do you remember Moon River?" and we'd burst into song. Whenever we forgot the words—which we usually did—there was still Doc Noel's rich voice to carry on while we scrambled to catch up.

Fiction literally means illusion, fantasy—an invention of the mind. Poets and fictionists can create worlds and change realities, non-fictionists never. Truth, always truth—but there's a way out for non-fictionists like me: memory is a tricky thing. Some things we choose to forget, or have forgotten, or remember in the strangest of ways. When I leave, there are things I'll remember—and things I'd seriously hope to forget. I'll remember giggling and sighing with the other girls over Dr. Gemino Abad—Sir Jimmy—the poet whose love for literature has him pounding the table and practically erupting out of his seat in his attempt to express that love. I'm told that girls (and boys) from every batch of Dumaguete fellows fall a little bit in love with Sir Jimmy—the gentleman whom even Mom Edith claims she can fall in love with. I'll remember Krip Yuson's resounding delivery of his beautiful poetry, and his unstinting generosity to penniless young writers—but will attempt to forget the sight of his black-and-white snake print swimming trunks. I'll remember I danced laughing in the rain at two in the morning, and try to forget the fact that I slipped on a puddle a minute later, slid down the sidewalk, fell sprawling butt-first into a canal and was pulled up dripping, barefoot and half drowned.

The minutes are going, going, going and then it'll be over. Just one more week left until reality takes the driver's seat. All of us have had so many firsts. First time to ask for a boy's number. First time to dance on top of a bench in the middle of a blackout. First time to eat tempura on a sidewalk, at three in the morning. First time to get drunk on laughter and cheap beer. First time to see the sunrise. First time to walk barefoot in the rain. First time to lie on a sidewalk and count stars.

Yesterday, I was talking to Sir Sawi—poet Cesar Ruiz Aquino—when he told me a story that accounts for why so many writers, artists and poets have called flying into Dumaguete "coming home." Legend says that hundreds of years ago, whenever the rainy seasons came, the wily south wind would blow pirate ships into the island's port. Villagers would send up a thousand prayers to the sky in despair. Marauders would swoop into the villages to steal away the beautiful daughters of Dumaguete. It is said that this is why the island became known as Dumaguete—from *dagit*, meaning "to take"—in memory of how the pirates of old took beauty from the island.

Now it's Dumaguete that takes. People find themselves walking down the shore one moment, the next moment stunned by the realization that the island has taken hold of their souls. They sit and they stare—at the clouds scudding across the sky, at the yellow sun beating down on the asphalt ledges, and at the edge of the world, the place where nobody knows where the sea stops and the sky begins.

* * *

*E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com*

## THEY SAID

### Birthday reminder

"He can only be President once. The Constitution does not have a provision for reelection. He had the presidency but he screwed it up."

*—Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's birthday message to deposed President Joseph Estrada*

### Crime deterrent

"It's not the gravity of the punishment, it's the certainty that when you commit a crime you will be arrested."

*—Former death row convict, now Caloocan Rep. Luis Asistio, supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo's commutation of all death sentences to life imprisonment*

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# TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.
Guest Editor Manuel L. Quezon III

# Growing energy and opportunities

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY LONG PLAYED A MYTHIC ROLE IN NATIONAL POLITICS, with sugar planters vying with millers to lobby governments at home and abroad, for concessions. The mismanagement of the industry during the Marcos years resulted in an industry that became steadily inefficient and even unprofitable; many fortunes were lost, and the clout of the so-called Sugar Barons has been severely reduced. The downturn in the sugar industry was accompanied in the 1980s by widespread poverty and misery in sugar-producing areas, increasing the public outcry for Social Justice measures such as land reform.

The skyrocketing price of oil has reinvigorated the call for the production of biofuels. Ethanol, produced from sugar, was previously considered too expensive as an alternative fuel source or additive to petroleum. With oil prices widely assumed to be high for the foreseeable future, biofuels have become not only a financially competitive proposition, but a strategic necessity.

The existing Philippine sugar industry has to grapple with both problems and opportunities. Sugar planters are happy that biofuel production gives them a new market for the raw material, sugarcane. Some planters, however, wonder if producing more sugarcane shouldn't require the preservation of large estates officially targeted for land reform redistribution. Owners of smaller tracts of land wonder if they can benefit from the biofuel market. Both large and small planters contend with the reality of a relatively antiquated sugar-growing industry.

The other power bloc in the sugar industry, the millers, are variously portrayed as opposed to the biofuels program, or at least the setting up of biofuel production plants, which might compete with them for access to raw materials. A country plagued by agrarian unrest, and yet vulnerable to fluctuations in global petroleum prices, may have to wrestle between opting for energy sufficiency, or restoring a feudal sugar economy.

## Ethanol sweeteners

**By Edwin O. Lopez**

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACApagal-Arroyo launched the country's bio-ethanol program in May 2005 with the announcement of the P 1.5B San Carlos Bio-Energy Plant project to be built in San Carlos, Negros Occidental. Expected to be operational by mid-2007, the plant will use 300,000 metric tons of sugarcane to produce 100,000 liters of bio-ethanol fuel per day, or an annual output of 25 million liters.

Another ethanol project was recently revealed by Congressman Herminio Teves of Negros Oriental. It will be an integrated plantation and ethanol distillery plant to be situated on a 24,000-hectare government land, in the Tamlang Valley, along the municipal boundaries of Sta. Catalina, Siaton, Valencia and Sibulan in Negros Oriental. The project will be undertaken by the Tamlang Valley Agricultural Development Corp., a joint venture between the government and a consortium of Chinese investors and the Teves Family.

The government's Bio-Ethanol Program plans to set up a total of 10 ethanol plants nationwide, each with the same output capacity (100,000 liters/day) in order to cope with the country's need for biofuel. According to Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor, Negros remains a priority area for ethanol production because of the abundance of raw material for biofuel production.

While the Philippine biofuel program hasn't taken-off yet, Negros producers have already benefited from the global shift to increasing ethanol production. The shortage of sugar supply in the world market caused local sugar prices to hit a seven-year-high in the milling year that just ended. From a range of P750-P950 per 50kg bag of sugar (LKg) in previous milling years, sugar producers recently enjoyed a higher price range of P800-P1,400 per LKg.

Certain associations of agrarian reform communities netted incomes of one million to nearly three million with the sudden leap in sugar prices. New trucks acquired and farmworkers' houses undergoing renovations, are indicators of a recent windfall in pro-fits from sugarcane. Farmers' opportunities may even increase all the more when Negros ethanol plants begin operating.

### Questions on benefits

However, certain nongovernment organizations and agrarian reform beneficiaries' cooperatives have expressed qualms due to specific developments related to Negros ethanol projects.

The Presidential Task Force Sugarlandia, chaired by Alexis Arsenal, recently submitted policy recommendations to Malacañang, for the exclusion of lands that will be devoted to biofuel feedstock production from CARP coverage, and to allow leaseback agreements for lands already under CLOA, that will be used for the biofuel program.

According to Eugene Quirante of Centro-Saka Inc., an NGO involved in agrarian reform implementation, "under such situation, the ethanol projects may reverse what farmworkers have already achieved in land reform, and discourage the further democratization of rural resources. Again, only the big planters will enjoy the benefits from ethanol production."

Quirante also revealed that the site of the Tamlag Valley ethanol project seems to coincide with the forest areas stewarded by bona fide residents and farmers organized under the Tamlag Valley Multi-purpose Cooperative. "The 2,000-strong farmers' cooperative will hold a meeting with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Charlie Fabre on May 30 to May 31, to ask that the 30,000 hectares of forest lands be awarded to them under a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement. They propose to plant coconut trees inter-cropped with *kasla* for biofuel production. A food zone of 2,000 hectares in the Tubad-Bagtik area will also be tilled for corn, banana and other food crops for farmers' daily sustenance."

"If the Tamlag Valley will be converted into sugarcane plantations, they may endanger critical watersheds and the highly steep slopes of the area, and make the local populace vulnerable to environmental disasters, similar to Leyte," Quirante added.

### Some said no

On the other hand, Bayawan Agrarian Reform beneficiaries in the former Montenegro Estate could not be certain of the advantages they will gain from the Teves-initiated ethanol plant project. Isidro Demetillo, community facilitator of Negros Oriental Institute for Rural Development, related that a consultation on the ethanol project occurred between provincial board member Herminio Teves and three cooperatives of agrarian reform beneficiaries, (namely, Larbemco, Damco and Bupmoco) in January 2006.

"The cooperatives declined the offer to lease out their lands for ethanol production since they have better opportunities in marketing their sugarcanes, than the offered lease-hold agreement. Even the Landbank branch manager Raul Villanueva could not advise to accept the offer since it may not be highly feasible for the cooperatives who still owe substantial loans from the bank," Demetillo reported.

The Bayawan cooperatives maintained a "wait and see" attitude on the possibility of selling their cane for ethanol production, since the buying price has not yet been determined.

While biofuel production with its byproducts and ecological benefits, is a very relevant program in the face of spiraling costs of crude oil in the world market, the government still has to ensure a win-win formula that will improve opportunities not only for investors but also for the smallholder producers.

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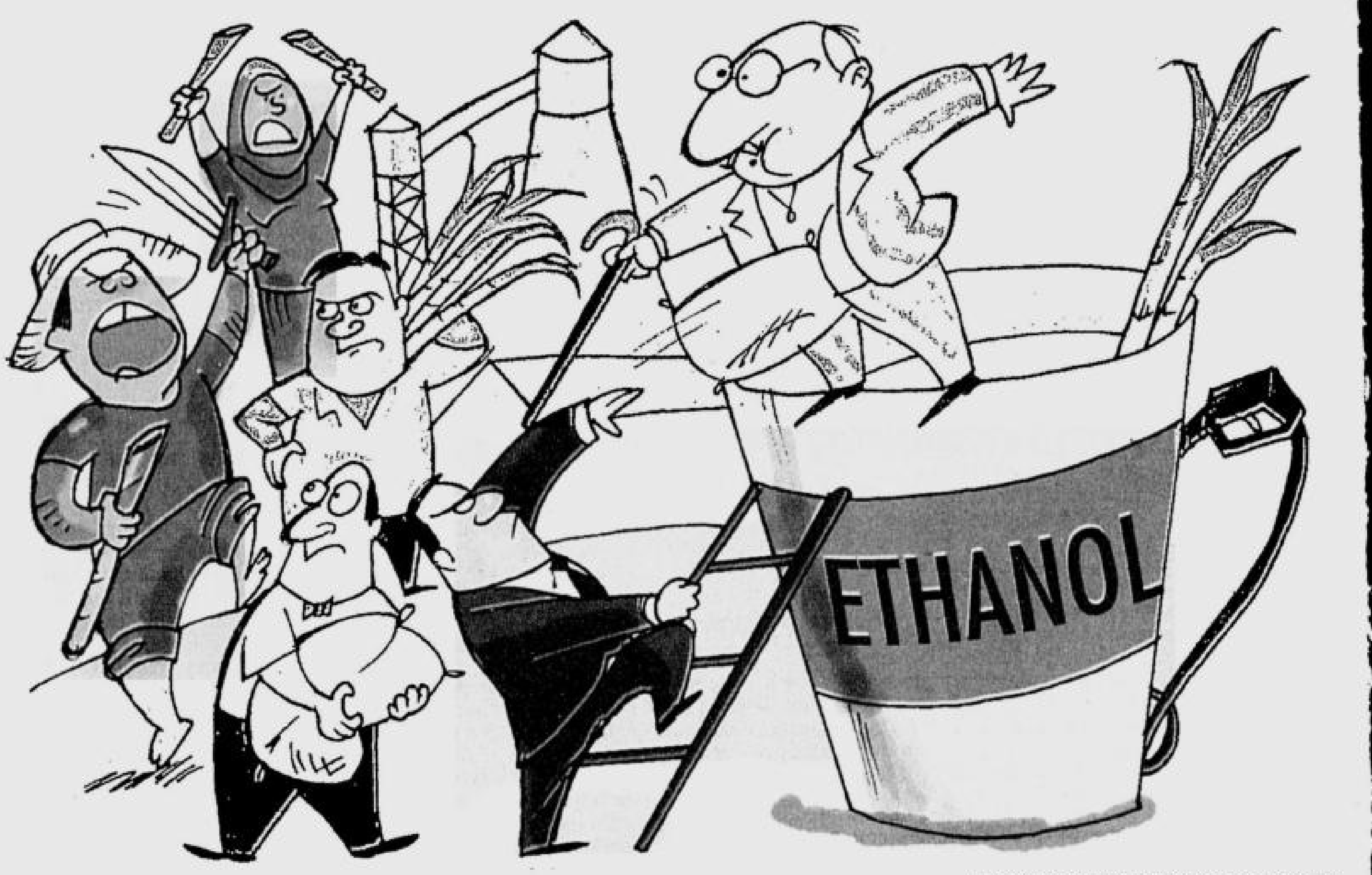
*(Lopez is the executive director of the Alter Trade Foundation Inc.)*



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## Seeing through the smokescreen

**By Shiva Mehrabi**

THE STEEP PRICE OF CRUDE oil is harming the Philippine economy. Increasing transport rates confront consumers while prices of basic commodities continue to shoot up rapidly. As this scenario pervades everyday reality, and the prospects of a rollback in oil prices are bleak, an opportunity is brewing in the countryside.

Ethanol is seen as an effective solution to the energy crisis confronting the country. At a 10-percent mandated blend, the Philippines can reduce its gasoline importation by as much as 400 million liters annually, automatically translating to a whopping $1-billion savings in foreign exchange in 10 years.

Meanwhile, the sugar industry is at the forefront of initiatives supporting and promoting the nascent ethanol industry. Sugarcane, being the most available raw material for the production of ethanol, incidentally accounts for a 7.98-percent share in agriculture and fishery production. Naturally, the issue of food security is hurled at the industry as a stumbling block in pursuing avenues leading to ethanol production, without realizing that at the right price, the productivity of existing farmers would substantially increase.

With such a promising future ahead of it, speculators are undermining the ethanol industry by suggesting that it will destabilize the sugar milling industry, and worse, encroach on the country's food security. But the sugar millers are the least threatened by this emerging industry as the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has cushioned their position in the country's economy.

### Part of a plan

First, SRA has identified 12 areas throughout the country for potential development—all of which are non-sugarcane producing sites. Most of these areas are situated in Luzon, which is the biggest consumer of gasoline. By policy, SRA directs investments in ethanol to these regions in the country. Ethanol distilleries may also be constructed in existing sugarcane-producing areas that are on the fringes of sugar districts or 100 kilometers away from sugar mills to avoid competition for cane supply between the two. Hence, a sugarcane farmer situated closer to a mill will transport his produce there for reasons of economic viability.

In addition, there are at least five sugar mills that have shut down due to economies of scale, which may be reactivated and converted into ethanol plants. These areas used to grow sugarcane and are ideal source of raw materials for ethanol production. Farmers who have suffered from capital loss are now given the chance to revert to planting sugarcane in areas where new ethanol distilleries will be installed. Aside from improving productivity, farmers may pursue expansion of their operations thereby increasing their profits.

Essentially, the land areas to be devoted to ethanol will not diminish the country's food security basket. The existing sugar districts will continue to produce sugar to satisfy domestic requirements and export commitments. Filipinos will continue to enjoy an ample supply of sugar while reaping the benefits of using alternative fuels like ethanol.

What critics fail to consider is the fact that globally, sugarcane has evolved from being a food crop to an energy crop. Aside from being the primary source for sugar, it is the most viable crop for ethanol production; its bagasse is used for power cogeneration; and its molasses has always been fermented for potable alcohol.

Similarly, in the Philippine setting, the momentum is fast building due to the escalating interest in ethanol worldwide. Environmentally speaking, using ethanol can significantly reduce particulate emissions in vehicles, consequently improving the quality of air in the metropolis. By reducing the use of fossil fuel, ethanol reduces new greenhouse gases, which are considered as the main contributors to global warming.

### The possibilities

As a result of productivity of idle lands in the countryside, the ethanol industry can generate employment for thousands of Filipinos in the provinces. Based on the study of the Philippine Fuel Ethanol Alliance, the ethanol industry is projected to directly hire a total of 87,000 people by the end of 2015. This, in turn, arrests urban migration as jobs in the agricultural and manufacturing industries would be spurred on by business ventures in ethanol production.

To date, 10 investors have explicitly expressed their interest in ethanol distilleries throughout the country. Their interest can definitely be propelled by the passage of the Biofuels Bill, which will secure the local market for ethanol producers by mandating a five-percent blend within two years of the approval of the bill, increasing to 10 percent four years thereafter. Sponsored by Rep. Miguel Zubiri, the Bill was passed by the House of Representatives as early as November, 2005.

The government has jumpstarted the ethanol industry by reducing tariffs for imported ethanol from 10 percent to 1 percent since local supply is not yet available. Shell has recently introduced its ethanol-blended gasoline in four of its service stations while Seaoil has been offering their E-10 to motorists since 2005. Petron has committed to supporting local ethanol producers.

What the people are patiently waiting for is a comprehensive Fuel Ethanol Program, which will be catapulted by legislation promoting and mandating the use of ethanol. In the meantime, consumers stretch their centavo's purchasing power to afford a comfortable, if not decent, life. The solution has been sitting on legislators' laps, waiting too to be noticed.

---

*(Mehrabi is the public relations officer of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association.)*

## Sugarcane Solomon wanted

**By Butch Bacaoco**

FOR THE FARMER, THE BOTtom line of production is return on investment. He is just as happy seeing his cane eventually mixed with gasoline as with coffee, as long as he gets a fair return for his efforts and investments. If sugar prices are high, the farmer will prefer delivering his cane to the mills. But if the distillers can give him a higher price, he will surely sell his cane to the ethanol distillers.

No investor will put up a $500-million distillery without an assurance of adequate supply. No farmer, however, will deliver his cane for ethanol if he can get a higher price from the mills. To assure themselves of steady cane supply, the distillers have to buy cane at a price higher than what sugar mills offer. Distillers would have to sell their ethanol at a higher price per liter. And yet, notwithstanding the production cost, the acceptability of ethanol prices would still depend on current oil prices.

The issue of ethanol prices in relation to cane supply is daunting enough. Add to this the manner of cane acquisition, which has a direct bearing on the long-established structure of the sugar industry.

### Hard-earned share

During the early years of the sugar industry, the sharing system between the planters and the sugar mills was on a 50-50 basis. To secure a more favorable sharing with the mills, the planters organized the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters (NFSP) in 1930 to ensure their fair share of the sugar. With the support of NFSP, the associations bargained with the mills for a more favorable 70-30 sharing.

In return, the farmers pay a minimal amount to the association and to the federation for every bag of sugar that they produce. The farmers also contribute P2.00/Lkg to finance research and development endeavors of the Philippine Sugar Industry Research Institute to come up with high-yielding, pest-resistant, and faster growing cane varieties.

Moreover, the law requires that a lien amounting to about P8.00 per bag of sugar is collected from the farmers. Eighty percent of the lien is given as cash bonuses to sugar workers while the remaining 20 percent is allocated for death and maternity benefits and for socio-economic projects such as livelihood, skills training and educational assistance for sugar workers and their dependents.

This system of liens and fees for the association, federation, research and development and for social amelioration benefits for the sugar workers and their dependents are predicated on a "per bag" basis. The farmers can contribute to these programs because they still own the end product of their cane. This system, however, is endangered by the "outright cane purchase" scheme favored by ethanol distillers.

### It's about control

Understandably, distillers want full control in disposing of their end product. Hence, they will purchase, outright, the farmers' cane and sell the end-product at whatever price and to whomever they deem best. In other words, the farmers' involvement in the ethanol production process stops the moment they deliver their cane to the distillers.

Today, farmers, who own 70 percent of the sugar produced from the cane they deliver to the mills, have the discretion, through their association, at what price and to whom they want to sell their share of the sugar. This would no longer be the case with "outright cane purchase" for ethanol.

Outright cane purchase can undermine the long-standing relationship of the farmer with his association/federation. If the farmer doesn't need his association to monitor the processing of his cane at the mills and to assist him in marketing his sugar, what will he need his association/federation for? It would go the way of the dinosaurs.

Research and development efforts as well as social amelioration benefits for the sugar workers will be put in jeopardy without a mechanism to safeguard the present structure of the industry. Most affected will be the sugar workers who, regardless of the end product, will still be the one who will toil in the fields to produce sugarcane.

In light of high fuel prices, floor prices for ethanol feedstock, and the proposed manner of cane acquisition, a Solomonic balance addressing the needs of all sugar industry stakeholders has to be found to jumpstart the ethanol agenda. And soon.

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*(Bacaoco is the assistant to the executive director of NFSP.)*

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# Army won't remove troops in Luisita

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—THE MILITARY will not pull out its troops at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac even if a new agrarian program there has been completed, an Army official said.

"Our mission is to clean Luisita [of rebels] completely," Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, told reporters here on Saturday.

Palparan said the military objective was not entirely related to how the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was proceeding at the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate.

At least 4,600 hectares there have been covered anew by the CARP after the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council revoked in December the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme sealed between the Hacienda Luisita Inc. and some 5,000 farm workers in 1989.

The military sent about 500 soldiers at the height of the labor and agrarian strike there from November 2004 to November 2005, according to Rene Galang, chair of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu).

Ulwu and the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu) have demanded the withdrawal of troops who they blamed for the killings of 15 workers, supporters and labor leaders.

Palparan said the military has maintained at least 176 members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in two companies and about 40 soldiers "at any time."

He said the division's reconnaissance company is based in Luisita but not all its 100 soldiers are stationed there.

Palparan said the military's presence would continue to be felt in 10 villages within the estate's areas in Tarlac City and Concepcion and La Paz towns to "deter" the New People's Army from recruiting fighters.

For the CARP coverage, the Department of Agrarian Reform has so far started the selection of beneficiaries and the valuation of the land.

Undersecretary Narciso Nieto Jr. said the first 1,000 hectares would be distributed by June this year through a certificate of land ownership award.

The hacienda owners are turning to the production of ethanol in the estate, but management officials said there simply is no sugarcane to use because strikers burned hectares of sugarcane farms at the height of the labor conflict.

The distribution of lots to farmers in Hacienda Luisita came at a time when one of the hacienda's owners, ex-President Corazon Aquino, launched a campaign to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The move to place Hacienda Luisita under land reform was seen as a retaliation of Ms Arroyo for Ms Aquino's leading the call for the President to resign over charges of rigging the 2004 elections and other charges. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

**YOUNG FARMERS**

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Two young residents of Barangay Callawa in Buhangin, Davao City guide the family carabao home after a day of farming.

# PNP awaiting approval of bigger role in counter-insurgency plans

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—THE PHILIPPINE National Police has asked the Cabinet security cluster to give it an "active, bigger role" in the government's anti-insurgency campaign, and this proposal is now a subject of a "serious policy study."

Director General Arturo Lomibao, PNP chief, said he made the proposal as a way of securing remote police stations from attacks of communist rebels.

Insurgents raided at least 10 police stations last year and carted away firearms, he said.

"We do not like to be giving firearms to the enemy by way of attacks on police stations," Lomibao said.

At present, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is at the forefront of internal security operations, limiting the PNP's support to intelligence gathering. The PNP's main task is in the anticriminality drive.

While the Cabinet cluster has yet to approve the planned shift, Lomibao said he has instructed regional directors to establish closer coordination with the AFP and to maintain a minimum of 20 policemen in every police station to "defend and repel enemy attacks." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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# Oriental Mindoro village vies for record for longest 'suman'

KAIN NA NG SUPER SUMAAAAAAAAAAAN!!
SARAP!

NAUJAN, ORIENTAL Mindoro—True to the name of their village, residents of Barangay Pagkakaisa in this town showed their brand of unity when they successfully completed the preparation of 1,000 feet, about 305 meters, of "*suman*" despite the typhoon that wrought havoc in the province barely a week ago.

Due to the typhoon that uprooted a lot of trees and scattered debris along the national highway near which the barangay is strategically located, the launching of the longest *suman* and other activities of the barangay fiesta had to be moved to May 18-19 from its original schedule of May 14-15.

Hermana mayora Linda Macalintal, who was chosen by the barangay to head the fiesta committee this year, said they had already sent a letter of intent to Guinness World Records as early as last year, when they were still planning the making of the *suman*.

The existing record on the longest *suman*, according to her, is 450 feet, which is easily topped by the 1,000-feet *suman* they have prepared.

She said the Guinness requires that aspiring record-setters submit a letter of intent before the actual activity and later, evidence that it was actually done.

"We will send photos of the *suman*, the ingredients and instructions on how to make the *suman*, and a narrative report to Guinness," Macalintal added.

### Not dampened

Barangay Pagkakaisa felt the fury of typhoon "Caloy," which sent uprooted trees along the roads, effectively blocking traffic.

"But the people of the barangay are resilient. As soon as the sun shone, the people immediately went to clear the roads of the debris, cutting down the fallen trees with chainsaw, even before tending to their own homes and yards," Macalintal said with pride.

Soon enough, banners and bannerettes were immediately restored, after being rushed to the printing press.

And as if to emphasize the point even more, they came up with a streamer declaring "*Tuloy ang pista, tuloy ang saya* (The feast goes on; happiness continues)."

### Making the 'suman'

The *suman* that the residents are producing is called Suman Batangas. Its ingredients include five cavans of sticky rice, mostly donated by the barangay people.

The preparation of the *suman* started at dawn on May 18 and was finished by 6 a.m. on May 19.

Around 125 barangay residents, mostly women, took turns in cooking and preparing the *suman*.

Sticky rice and coconut are produced in plenty in the barangay, which is still an agricultural village.

*Suman* committee chair Tessie Castillo, who was over-all in charge of the cooking and mixing of the ingredients, said 22 *kawas* (cooking vessels) were used.

Banana leaves were used to wrap the *suman*.

The full ingredients are: 5 cavans of sticky rice, 440 pieces of whole coconuts, 110 kilos of white sugar, 2 *salop* (gantas) of *asin*, 5 bottles of vanilla, 330 liters of coconut milk. *Marciano T. Virola, Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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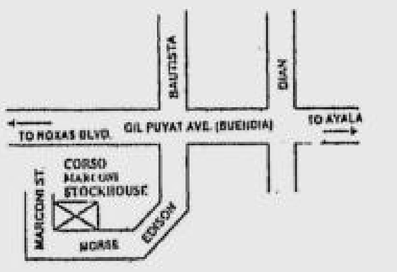

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# Legislators ask Gloria to free 'Tagaytay 5'

CALAMBA CITY—ADMINISTRATION REP. Jesus Crispin Remulla of Cavite and seven other representatives, including the so-called "Batasan 5," on Tuesday filed a resolution urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order the release of five farmers suspected of being communist rebels.

Remulla was joined by Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Joel Virador; Anakpawis Representatives Rafael Mariano and Crispin Beltran, and Rep. Liza Maza of Gabriela.

The eight lawmakers likewise filed a separate House resolution to look into allegations that the five suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were tortured after they were illegally detained and arrested.

The five—Aristedes Sarmiento, Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Riel Custodio, Rico Ybañez and Michael Masayes—were held in Tagaytay City on April 28 on suspicion that they would lead the alleged plan of rightist and leftist factions in seizing Malacañang on May 1.

The suspects, now collectively known as the "Tagaytay 5," denied charges that they were NPA members.

The five, who claimed they were physically and mentally tortured, were charged with rebellion a week after their arrest.

In House Resolution No. 1244, entitled "Resolution urging President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to order the immediate release of [the Tagaytay 5]," the lawmakers called on Ms Arroyo to order the dropping of "malicious charges" against the arrested men.

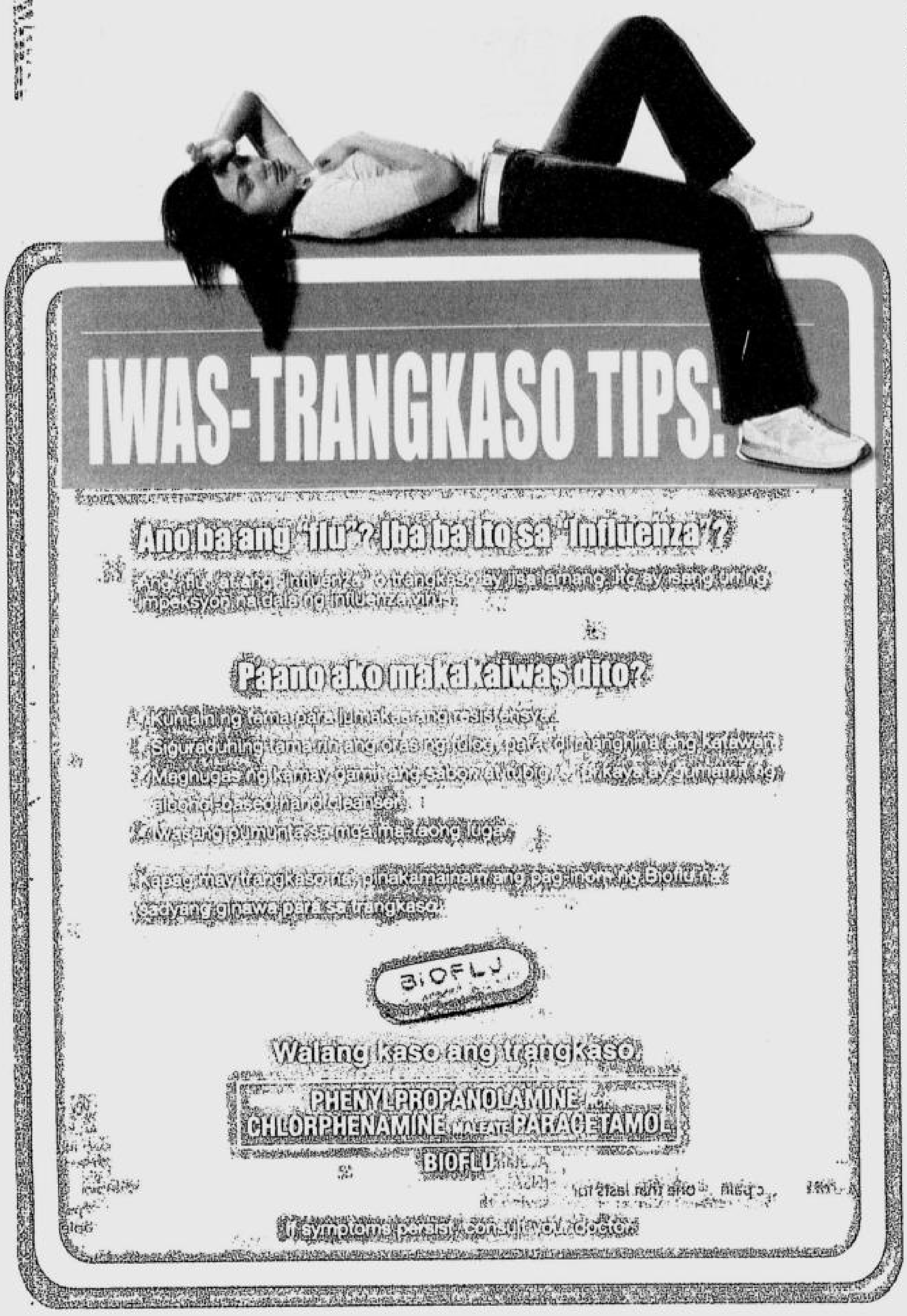
"The continued incarceration of 'Tagaytay 5' will only prove the common idea that there are lots of innocent people who are languishing in prison because of mere suspicion and malicious imputation of criminal acts," they said.

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Remulla admitted that he personally knew Pinpin and that he considered him as a friend.

The lawmakers said the release of the arrested persons will not only "help them regain their dignity, self-esteem and self-respect," but will also "enable them to pursue their acknowledged undertaking of promoting the welfare and interests of the peasants."

"Illegal arrest, arbitrary detention, malicious imputation of criminal acts and torture are not only prohibited under the duly enacted laws but also under the provisions of the Constitution and international human rights laws," they said.

In House Resolution No. 1243, the lawmakers said there was a need to investigate the truth behind the claims of the five arrested men that they were physically harmed by their military and police captors while undergoing interrogation. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*


IWAS-TRANGKASO TIPS:

Ano ba ang 'flu'? Iba ba ito sa 'influenza'?

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If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

# Mayor defends order on night clubs

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Braulio Yaranon defended his order regulating the operations of bars and nightclubs in the city amid criticisms from tourists, bar owners and several councilors.

He said the imposition of Administrative Order 114, which limited the operating hours of local bars, nightclubs and establishments selling liquor and wine, was "necessary."

"As head of the city, it is necessary to impose such regulation," Yaranon told the INQUIRER.

"It is our humble position that the express authority granted to the city mayor as chief executive to issue business permits carries with it implied authority to issue reasonable regulations in the absence of legislation," he said in a separate statement.

Councilor Galo Weygan wanted AO 114 to become part of the city's liquor code as the existing ordinance did not specify the closing hours of establishments offering liquor to their patrons. The order fixed the closure of bars at midnight and of nightclubs at 2 a.m.

A 1990 amendment to the 1987 Liquor Code did not limit hours of operation among such establishments and AO 114 would fill in this gap, Weygan said.

But the city council, in a 10-1 vote on April 24, junked Weygan's proposal. *Beverly Castillo and Jahzeel Abihail Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**DAILY ATTIRE** VILLAMOR VISAYA, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**A Kasibu town villager proudly wears his native costume while enticing passersby to buy native fruits from his hometown during the Panagyaman Festival in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, which opened on May 19 and will run until May 25.**

# Violence claiming more victims among Sulu folk

JOLO, SULU—MORE AND MORE Tausugs are dying violently, according to records compiled by the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO).

Dr. Farrah Omar, IPHO Sulu director, said during a six-year period from 2000, the number of those who died from bullets, hackings or explosions reached 159.

Sulu is one of the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), where loose firearms abound.

Feuds between warring families often ended in shootouts as guns are easily acquired.

The island-province is also a known lair of the Abu Sayyaf, a self-styled Islamist armed group blamed for increasing attacks on civilians.

While coming second only to hypertension, which claimed 202 lives since 2000, as the top cause of death in the island-province, Omar said that violence remains a serious concern.

"It is really sad to note that a number of people are dying of violent causes," Omar said.

She said the figure on death by violence could be higher considering that Muslims bury their dead within 24 hours.

Some Muslim families, she said, do not report their fatalities to authorities.

Gov. Benjamin Loong said the people of Sulu have become used to violence and are no longer bothered by it.

Other top causes of death among the Tausugs are pneumonia with 156 cases, diarrhea with 123 and vehicular accident with 113 cases.

Omar blamed the poor road network in the province and the unsafe design of public utility vehicles for the road accidents. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Cebu buses increase fare

CEBU CITY—BUS OPERATORS IN SOUTHern Cebu have increased their fare to offset the spiraling prices of fuel.

They have been collecting P6 for the first five kilometers and additional P1 for every succeeding kilometer since Monday. Minibuses will adjust their rates on June 1.

Nick Villahermosa, president of the Cebu Provincial Bus Operator's Association (CPBOA), said they decided to implement the new rate after the prices of diesel hit the P36 per-liter level on May 8.

The new fare adjustment is still below the rates allowed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), which is P8.50 for the first 5 km and P1.35 for every succeeding km.

Before the new rate was implemented, buses operating in southern Cebu had been collecting P5.50 for the first 5 km and 85 centavos for every succeeding km based on an agreement between bus operators and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia last year.

Villahermosa said the bus operators were supposed to implement the new rates last May 1 but Garcia was able to persuade them to hold the increase in abeyance until the prices of diesel reached P36 per liter.

There are over 30 bus operators who are managing over 200 units in the entire province. But the new rates only apply to the over 100 buses plying the southern routes, which are managed by 18 operators.

Villahermosa said they also met yesterday with the mini-bus operators headed by Julie Flores to ensure that they would also collect the same fare.

Flores' group has about 80 units plying Carcar town, about 44 km south of this city. They agreed to implement the same rate starting June 1. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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# 5th Asian and Oceanian Myology Center Annual Convention

# 12th Philippine Neurological Association Midyear Convention

## Joint Meeting, May 24-27, 2006 at Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa, Mactan, Cebu, Philippines

1972

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association as you hold your 5th Asian and Oceanian Myology Center (AOMC) Meeting and Midyear Convention.

I laud the PNA for bringing together physicians dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the delivery of neurological care, education and research. I welcome this meeting and convention for formulating new approaches and medical technologies for treating inflammatory muscle diseases, periodic paralysis, channelopathies and other muscle disorders common among our kababayans.

I hope that through this event, our local neurologists and medical specialists will be equipped with more knowledge and skills. Your improved expertise will surely redound to the benefit of our people.

I ask you to work with me in a common quest for a better future. Your cooperation and participation in nation – building is needed for the advancement of our society.

Together, let us beat the odds. *Mabuhay!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Manila

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association (PNA) as they hold the 5th Asian and Oceanian Myology Meeting and 2006 Midyear Convention.

Your continued commitment in the promotion of neurological care in our country and also in the Asian and Oceanic Regions have greatly contributed in providing modern quality health care for people afflicted with neurology disorders.

As you focus on building a strong foundation of stability and integrity that will serve as inspiration to your members and colleagues, may you remain steadfast in your objective to better serve our countrymen with excellence and fervor.

I enjoin all of you to support our government's health programs as we move to achieve a healthy and productive nation.

Congratulations and *mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

Dear Collegues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure to invite you to participate in the 2006 joint convention of the Asian Oceanian Myology Center and the Philippine Neurological Association. The inspiration gathered from the boards of both organizations led to the crafting of a scientific program that will entice participants not only in Neurology but also to related fields such as Rehabilitation Medicine, Rheumatology, Pathology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics and others.

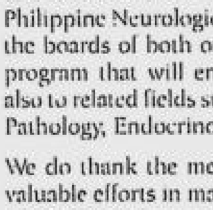
We do thank the members of the organizing committee for their valuable efforts in making this momentous occasion a reality for all of us. Thus, let us all experience scientific quality and the social events from the beautiful Cebu has to offer.

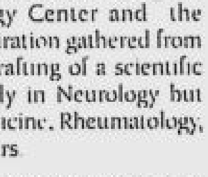
Thank you very much.

Maraming Salamat po

Byron
BYRON A. KAKULAS, AO, MD, HON. ATHENS
MD FRACP FRC Path FRCPA
AOMC President

RAYMOND L. ROSALES, MD, PhD, FPNA
PNA President & The 5th AOMC /
12th PNA Midyear Convention Chairman





Greetings!

*Muscle diseases* pose an increasingly important challenge to the medical community. To strengthen the understanding of both the basic and clinical knowledge of these diseases, the Scientific Committee has carefully assembled a prestigious group of experts from the Asian-Oceanian region to speak on wide array of topics with focus on the *inflammatory myopathies, periodic paralysis and the channelopathies* in which recent research advances have amply improved diagnosis and treatment. We have added the Clinico-Pathologic Conference on Muscle Biopsies, a unique forum where active interaction will provide clarification and better management of the patients' diseases.

Come and learn with us!

Ichizo Nishino
ICHIZO NISHINO, MD, PhD
Chairman, Scientific Committee
5th AOMC Convention and
12th PNA Midyear Convention

MARITA BERNAL-DANTES, MD, FPNA
Co-Chair, Scientific Committee
12th PNA Midyear Convention and
5th AOMC Convention

### PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

| TIME | MAY 24 WEDNESDAY | MAY 25 THURSDAY | MAY 26 FRIDAY | MAY 27 SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00-7:30 | | REGISTRATION | Teratogenesis of Anti-Epileptic Drugs: Can We Reduce the Risk?<br>Dr. L. Cabral-Lim (Phils)<br>GSK<br>Citicoline (Somazine) in the Clinical Practice of Pediatric Neurology<br>Dr. M. Sosa (Phils)<br>PATRIOT | **Unusual Myositis**<br>Dr. R. Rosales (Phils.)<br>Special Issues in Stroke: The Diabetic & the Elderly Hypertensive<br>Dr. A. Roxas (Phils.)<br>BOIE-TAKEDA |
| 7:30-8:00 | | EMG NCV COURSE (Neuromuscular Council)<br>Overview – Dr. M. Dantes (Phils)<br>1. Normal EMG-NCV Findings – Dr. L. Damian (Phils)<br>2. Electrodiagnosis of Axonal and Demyelinating Diseases – Dr. K. Arimura (Japan)<br>3. Electrodiagnosis of Neuromuscular Junction Diseases – Dr. R. Witoonpanich (Thailand)<br>4. Electrodiagnosis of Myopathies – Dr. R. Escutin Jr. (USA)<br>5. Blink & H-Reflex Responses – Dr. J. Kimura (Japan/USA)<br>Open Forum | | |
| 8:00-8:30 | | | OPENING CEREMONIES OF AOMC & PNA MIDYEAR CONVENTIONS/OPENING OF EXHIBITS<br>Sec. Rafael Lotilla – Keynote Speaker<br>ABBOTT | **The Congenital Myasthenic Syndromes**<br>Dr. A.G. Engel (USA) |
| 8:30-9:00 | | | | |
| 9:00-9:30 | | | **Overview of Inflammatory Myopathies with Emphasis on Polymyositis & Inclusion Body Myositis** – Dr. F. Mastaglia (Australia) | **The Dyskalemic Periodic Paralysis: Diagnosis, Pathogenesis and Therapy**<br>Dr. T. Miller (USA) |
| 9:30-10:00 | | | | |
| 10:00-10:30 | | | **The Dermatomyositis with Emphasis on Childhood Type**<br>Dr. A. Kornberg (Australia) | TEA BREAK /Poster Viewing |
| 10:30-11:00 | | TEA BREAK | | **The Myotonia Congenita: Diagnosis, Pathogenesis and Therapy**<br>Dr. A. Kornberg (Australia) |
| 11:00-11:30 | | **The Clinical Recognition & Treatment of Muscle Dystrophies**<br>Dr. T. Ishihara (Japan) | **Immunopathogenesis of Inflammatory Myopathies** – Dr. A.G. Engel (USA) | |
| 11:30-12:00 | | | | The Thyrotoxic Periodic Paralysis: Diagnosis, Pathognesis And Therapy<br>Dr. K. Arimura (Japan) |
| 12:00-12:30 | | | **The Power of 2:**<br>*A New Perspective in Total Pain Management*<br>Dr. F. Javer (Phils)<br>Dr. R. Rosales (Phils) | |
| 12:30-13:00 | | DYSPORT BOTULINUM TOXIN-A WORKSHOP<br>Muscle Spasms, Dystonia and Spasticity<br>R. Rosales (Phils), J. Flordelis (Phils) & V. Evidente (USA/Phils)<br>*IPSEN* | | Work – Life Balance<br>Dr. F. Kong (Phils)<br>UCB |
| 13:00-13:30 | | | | |
| 13:30-14:00 | | | PFIZER | |
| 14:00-14:30 | | | POSTER VIEWING<br>Dr. P. Pasco (Chairman)<br>PNA COMMITTEE MEETINGS<br>Dr. R. Alvarez (Chair) | **The Filipino "Bangungot" Syndrome**<br>Dr. B. Carandang (Phils) |
| 14:30-15:00 | | BASIC MYOPATHOLOGY COURSE<br>1. Overview of Diagnostic Approaches in Muscle Diseases – Dr. I. Nonaka (Japan)<br>2. Immunohistochemistry as Applied in Muscle Biopsy – Dr. WC Yee (Singapore)<br>3. The Normal Muscle biopsy and Recognition of Artifacts – Dr. M. Kawai (Japan)<br>4. Muscle Histopathology in Neurogenic Disorders – Dr. T. Sangruchi (Thailand)<br>5. The Muscular Dystrophies – Dr. I. Nishino (Japan)<br>6. The Congenital Myopathies – I. Nonaka (Japan) | | CLINICO-PATHOLOGIC CONFERENCE OF MUSCLE BIOPSIES<br>MODERATOR: Dr. R. Rosales (Phils)<br>PANEL OF EXPERTS: Dr. A.G. Engel (USA)<br>Dr. B. Kakulas (Australia)<br>Dr. I. Nonaka (Japan)<br>Dr. F. Mastaglia (Australia)<br>Dr. I. Nishino (Japan)<br>Dr. WC Yee (Singapore) |
| 15:00-15:30 | | | **PNA Business Meeting** | |
| 15:30-16:00 | | | | |
| 16:00-16:30 | | | | |
| 16:30-17:00 | | | | |
| 17:00-17:30 | **PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME RECEPTION FOR DELEGATES AND SPEAKERS** | | **PNA Team building activity In cooperation with Novartis** | |
| 17:30-18:00 | | | | |
| 18:00-18:30 | | **Defining the Role of Dual Antiplatelet Therapy in Atherothrombosis**<br>Dr. J. Amerena (Australia) | | AOMC Business Meeting<br>**ANTICIPATED MASS** |
| 18:30-19:00 | | | | |
| 19:00 | *SANOFI AVENTIS* | *SANOFI AVENTIS* | **FELLOWSHIP NIGHT**<br>*PFIZER* | CLOSING CEREMONIES Including Announcement of the AOMC logo design winner<br>*IPSEN* |

# Understanding Nerve Pain

People usually associate pain with some physical manifestation; and, to make the pain go away, people instinctively treat the obvious cause. When you bump your head, you apply cold compress on the bump. When you get scalded with hot water, you treat the burn with ointment. However, there is a type of pain that cannot easily be seen and, thus, cannot easily be treated.

"Nerves can also generate pain, and this type of pain, known as Neuropathic Pain, often doesn't go away easily. As against Nociceptive Pain generally induced by tissue injury, Neuropathic Pain is spontaneous and can be frustrating to treat," said Dr. Raymond Rosales of the Special Interest Group for Neuropathic Pain (SIGN-P).

Neuropathic or nerve pain is a type of chronic pain — one that lasts for a long time, caused by a disease of the peripheral or central nervous systems, and often misdiagnosed. Common descriptors of this type of pain include the following: "kumikirot," "mahapdi," "manhid," "tinutusok," "langgam na gumagapang," "parang kuryente" among others. The pain can last indefinitely, escalate over time and result in pain-related sleep interference, depression, anxiety and, in some cases, severe disability. People who suffer from Neuropathic Pain say that the chronic pain can be so severe that they have trouble performing day-to-day activities, even sleeping. As a result, they experience problems with family and personal relationships.

According to Dr. R. Rosales, the most common causes of Neuropathic Pain are Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (a complication of Diabetes Mellitus) and Postherpetic Neuralgia (a complication of shingles).

Spine / root conditions and cancer chemotherapy may also cause Neuropathic Pain. Dr. R. Rosales said that when a patient comes to him complaining of pain that has no known cause, he would usually ask some specific questions to help him define the type of pain involved: Do you have any accompanying conditions such as diabetes, shingles, kidney disease or have you taken medications that potentially damage nerves? How would you describe the pain? Is your pain worse at any time of the day or night? Is the pain triggered by minor irritation, such as rubbing against the sheets at night? Is the pain starting from both feet spreading to both hands (typical of Diabetic Neuropathy), or is happening in one side of the body (typical of Post-Stroke Central Neuropathic Pain)?

The goal of pain management is to improve function, enabling individuals to work, attend school or participate in other day-to-day activities. "We should remember that whatever the treatment regimen, pain can be taken away," said Dr. R. Rosales. But there are times when the standard array of non-narcotic analgesics like Acetaminophen, Aspirin, Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) have little effect on Neuropathic Pain. He continued by saying that different classes of medicines have been developed recently to help alleviate the Neuropathic Pain suffering of people.

Studies show that Opioids can safely relieve many types of Neuropathic Pain, but should be taken with care.

The good news is that there is hope for Neuropathic Pain sufferers. Dr. R. Rosales concluded that while this type of chronic pain is often difficult to treat, new medicines and better therapeutic approaches are now available. "It is great to know that active researches in this field are around the corner, paving the way to provide improved and quality care in pain management."

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## PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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*Editor* **Jun Bandayrel**
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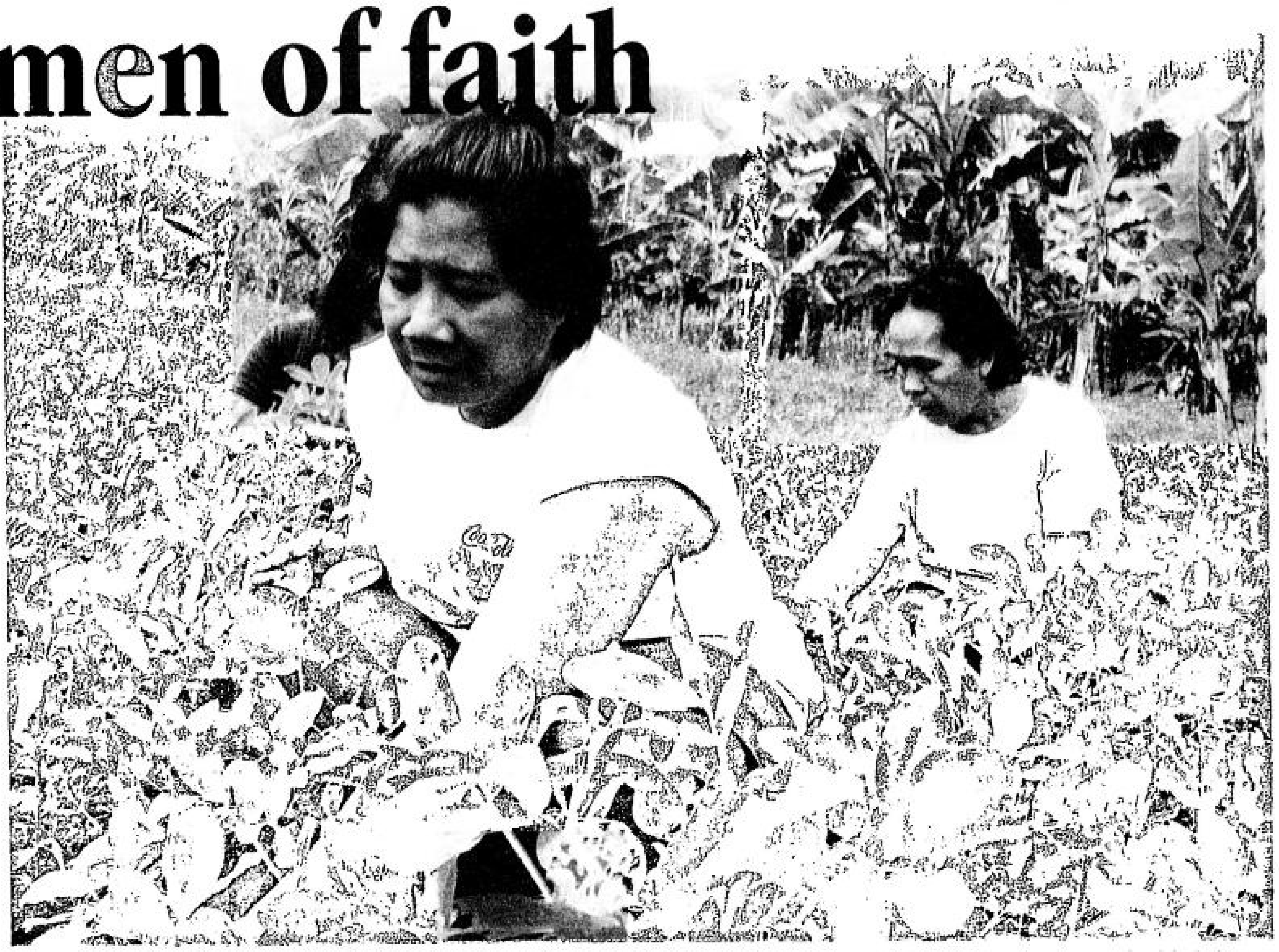
# Davao's women of faith

**By Jeffrey M. Tupas**
*Davao City*

WHEN MOST RURAL WOMEN ARE PREOCcupied with worries and lots of household chores, the women of the small village of New Loon in Mintal District in Davao City have put hard work and faith together to survive.



**ADVOCATES** of a safe food for good health and sound environment, these women from Davao City help each other go through with their daily lives by engaging in organic farming, among others.

PHOTOS BY JEFFREY M. TUPAS

Their lives, although characterized by simplicity by any outsider's standards, are reflective of what empowerment means.

The strength, a rarity in a male-dominated society, is coupled by their continued trust in their capacity, not only as homemakers but also as partners of their husbands in building their family.

Meet the members of the New Hope Women's Organization, which was formed in 1995. The organization was largely misunderstood, with its members even suspected of being influenced by, if not having connections with, the Left.

"They did not understand us. Some also refused to understand us and those who cast their suspicion were husbands of our members or some immediate members of their respective families... I think they could not get the idea of women working together, organizing," said group president Imelda Ejandra.

"People here also resorted to branding us and began putting the word 'Ka' (comrade) before our names. They called me Ka Beng-Beng," she added. Beng-Beng is Ejandra's nickname.

Ejandra said this skepticism emanated from the idea of allowing women to lead, of helping themselves and designing projects for them and members of the community. This alone, she said, was new to all of them.

"But just as how our organization is called, the original members of 21 held tight to the small hope that we all promised to each other the moment we started this organization. And later, the little hope grew just as our force did," Ejandra said of her group with more than 30 active members now.

The group is engaged in backyard organic farming, livestock raising and small-scale money lending for its members. As the most active people's organization in New Loon, the group was also instrumental in the establishment of the New Hope Day Care Center that caters to the educational needs of more than 45 preschool children now.

A few years after the establishment of the educational facility, the women's group was also able to lobby with the barangay council for the release of a monthly stipend for the day care teacher.

Asked how much money they have, Ejandra said rather proudly that they were able to so far save P7,000.

The group, perhaps compared to other people's organization, cannot boast of fat accounts and prominent, tangible projects but of their ability to provide their respective families with the most basic need of all—food.

And they don't just provide the food, the women provide safe food, unlaced with synthetic chemicals that most mothers downtown buy from the supermarkets and prepare and consume at home. In fact, they are even selling some of their organic vegetables and fruits to the nonmembers of the community.

And this is because of the group's Food Always in the Home (Faith) gardening program.

Carianita Mangubat, 60, vouched that they no longer worry about having or not having food for their family after they engaged in faith gardening.

"We no longer worry about whether we have something to eat or not. It has also become a good source of income. Look around us and you will see what I mean," Mangubat said of her backyard garden planted to fruits and vegetables like *sayote*, string beans, squash, and other plants known for their medicinal content, such as *Tawa-Tawa, Tuba-Tuba, Lagundi, Tsaang-gubat and Mayana*.

The organization is also engaged in producing herbal medicine. For instance, *Tawa-Tawa*, which is effective for dengue fever, is being crystallized, dried or boiled. They also concoct their pesticides and fertilizers.

"It's all organic here. No deadly substances or anything that we know could destroy the environment and are dangerous to our health. We do not spray synthetic chemicals but we spray our own organic concoctions. We also intercrop plants that are not attractive to insects," she added.

The group is supported by the Upliftment of the Moral, Economic, Technological, Socio-spiritual Aspirations of Men and Women (Metsa), a nongovernment organization advocating the holistic development of every individual and the protection of the environment.

Virginia Macrohon of Metsa said their group backed the women's organization because of its potential to advance the cause of empowering women, making them a productive sector of the community.

"This is a relatively strong organization. Important mechanisms are in place now. There is a complementation between the leader and the members," Macrohon said.

Ejandra, whom Macrohon described as a hands-on leader, is also the president of the Kolos Neng Bi Kibo (a Manobo term for empowered women) composed of 21 women groups, one of which is the New Hope Women's Organization.

## Friendship

"What is so good about this group is that they know that money is not the sole answer to their woes and problems. They know that they can solve their problems if they help themselves and help each other. Simple outlook but effective," Macrohon said.

"We have all reasons to be proud about this group," she added.

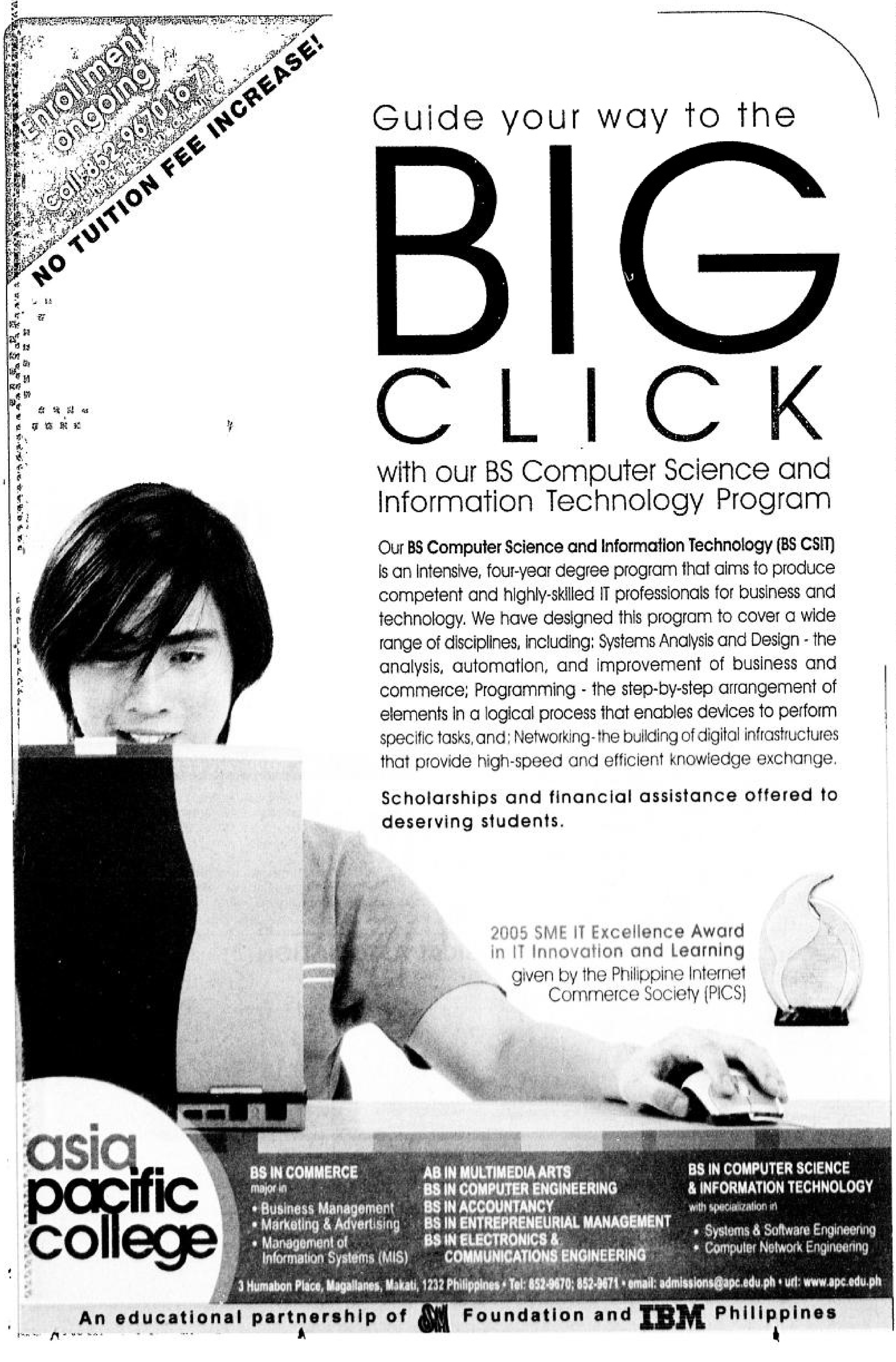
The members agreed that money is actually the least of their concerns.

"All we want is for us to develop our self-esteem and that we see each other really empowered," Mangubat said.

And what else could community women share with each other?

"We are poor but we are all friends. We believe in each other and in ourselves," Ejandra said.

**THIS** woman shows how a crystallized "Tawa-Tawa" is produced. The plant is known as an effective cure to dengue fever.



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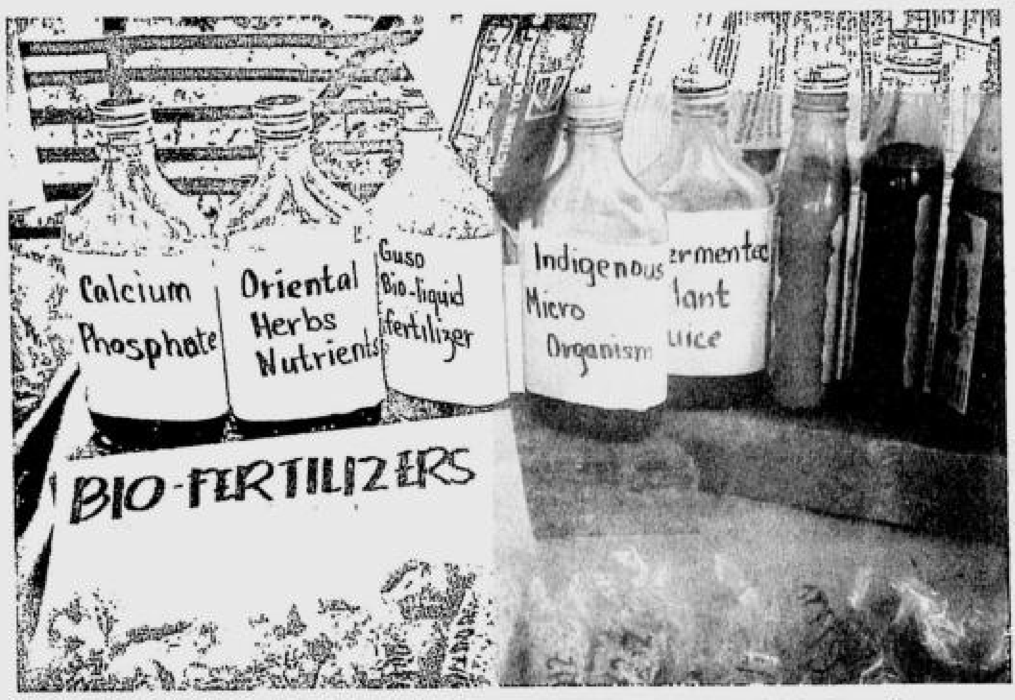
OFFICERS of Kahugpungan sa Tigbaong Mag-uuma (Katigma) teach farmers how to produce their own organic fertilizers and explain the benefits of organic farming during an agricultural fair at the feast of San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of farmers on May 15 in Dumalinao parish, Zamboanga del Sur. PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOCIAL ACTION CENTER-DIOCESE OF PAGADIAN



BOTTLED bio-fertilizers produced by Katigma are displayed during a fair in Dumalinao town.

# Tigbao farmers produce, sell organic fertilizer

By Michael F. Sarcauga
*Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur*

MANY FARMERS HERE used to be so poor they could not buy farm inputs without help from loan sharks.

Their situation started to change when a group of farmers sought to free themselves from debt by going organic instead of using commercial chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Members of the Kahugpungan sa Tigbaong Mag-uuma (Katigma), or the Association of Tigbao Farmers, have been using the alternative method of cultivating their farms for three years now and had proven they could succeed without help from loan sharks who normally dictate the buying price for their produce.

In fact, they now produce their own eco-friendly fertilizers and natural pest repellant.

"It was previously difficult for us to provide food for our families because most of our income went to debt repayment," said Katigma chair Cirilo Monterola.

Supported by the Catholic Church's program on sustainable agriculture through the Social Action Center (SAC), Katigma started in 2003 with 10 members, who were then active with the Church's Basic Christian Communities (BCC).

"They were sent to model farms in other places and trained in organic fertilizer making. We also helped them become organized until they were able to manage and started recruiting more farmers," said Rudy Arpon, sustainable agriculture coordinator of the Pagadian diocese.

At present, several farmer organizations espousing organic farming could be found all over town.

Their number continues to increase because those who became successful shared their stories with other farmers and even showed their farms as examples.

"We have attracted other farmers into organic farming because they found out we were no longer worrying about food and were able to break away from debt," said Bonifacio Consolacion of Maragang village.

In sustainable farming, they are not forced to borrow money anymore, he said.

Another important effect of his being debt-free now is that he is able to send his children to school, he added.

To produce the fertilizer, farmers use leftovers such as rice straw and corn stalks and leaves of shrubs and bushes that grow everywhere.

They also use animal wastes, kitchen refuse such as blood and bones from fish and other animals, and rotten fruits.

"The ingredients for organic fertilizers are found in the farms and are free," Monterola said.

"What a farmer needs is the know-how to produce a balanced mix of ingredients to produce the right amount of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium that are essential for bringing back the natural soil condition."

To help them get abundant supply of materials for their organic fertilizer-making, Katigma convinced the Tigbao town council to ban the burning of rice straws and corn stalks.

"These are useful in making compost for organic fertilizers. By recycling them, we can eliminate the open burning practice, which is dangerous and environmentally hazardous," Monterola said.

As for combating pests, the farmers mix herbs and spices such as garlic, onion, ginger, chili as well as sugar and beer.

Arpon said the use of inorganic fertilizers diminish natural soil nutrients.

He said this makes farmers dependent on expensive fertilizers that are beyond their budgets.

Arpon said commercial pesticides also invite more pests because they eliminate helpful insects.

Favio Maghanoy, another Tigbao farmer, said they could fulfill their "moral obligation of taking care of the land that gives life by preserving it for the next generation."

"We don't own the land. It is given by God to provide us our needs and in return, we have to take care of it," he said.

Municipal health officer Dr. Leothy Irene Famor said she prefers buying rice produced by organic farmers because it is healthy and free from harmful chemicals.

"It is a little expensive than rice produced using commercial fertilizers but you get to eat chemical-free rice," Famor said.

Monterola admitted that their produce was about P300 more expensive than a sack of commercially grown rice.

But with more people becoming conscious of what they eat, their market has been expanding, he said.

"The role of sustainable agriculture program in the diocese did not only help poor farmers in organic farming, it also helped them market their products. Organic farmers are rewarded with a higher price for their products because there is a high preference for rice or corn, which are organically produced," said Arpon.

To increase the marketability of their products they are considering the putting up of a cooperative, Monterola said.

"Once the cooperative is realized we will have facilities such as trucks to transport farm products to the market. We will also be able to put up our own rice and corn milling facilities," he said.

KATIGMA chair Cirilo Monterola shows onlookers pictures of organic fertilizers that the group produced during the agricultural fair.

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AN EVICTION team carries out the belongings of retired officers from their quarters in Fort Bonifacio. Tension attended the removal as some officers refused to leave. REM ZAMORA

# Ex-Navy brass battle eviction

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MORE THAN A THOUSAND TROOPS FROM THE NAVY AND MARINES clashed with their retired superiors over officers' quarters in Fort Bonifacio, at one point becoming violent, as military authorities reclaimed a naval housing compound yesterday.

At least one person was arrested as soldiers backed by rifle-wielding troops and heavy equipment forced their way into the homes of retired generals who had refused to vacate their housing at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio to make way for active-duty troops.

Evicted were some 50 retired generals and flag officers out of a total of 98 former senior officers allegedly overstaying at the 20-hectare BNS. Seventeen of the alleged squatters had secured a court injunction while 25 others were set for future eviction.

There were also 112 overstaying enlisted personnel, the Navy said.

Before the operation, the retired officers had occupied 70 of the 85 senior officers' quarters in the BNS, including the residence of the Navy flag officer in command.

The Navy, armed with a favorable legal opinion from the Office of the Solicitor General, moved in yesterday after the "final notice of eviction" issued last May 12 was mostly ignored.

## 'Regulations are regulations'

Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga was not at the site, as he left his middle-grade officers and soldiers to face the heckling, threats and even physical confrontation with the retired officers and their families.

Mayuga showed up briefly at the Marine grandstand where a "command post" was put up. "Regulations are regulations. All I know is that they deprived many officers [of housing]," he said, adding he also did not want his former superiors to lose face.

Throughout the morning yesterday, most of the retired officers refused to budge from their bungalow-quarters even though soldiers waited outside for them to go. Only a handful avoided eviction by packing up.

The eviction did not start until Marine Col. Gioksan Dammang, ground commander for Task Force "Balik Bahay," marched into the BNS compound at 12:20 p.m. with his troops.

"If you're not coming with us, go home," Dammang barked as Marines with M16s who were assigned as "security" barged into the first bungalow, occupied by retired Marine Brig. Gen. Pablo Viray.

Viray, dressed in his old combat uniform, tried to frighten off the eviction team, telling them, "I am a Marine. This is not a war. Look at you, carrying a gun. Shame on you."

## Half-hour standoff

Two other retired officers, former Brig. Gen. Brigido Paredes and former Commodore Eduardo Domingo, who had also claimed their quarters for their own, helped Viray block the doorway.

"You load your guns and kill me and I'll show you how to die," Paredes warned.

After a half-hour standoff where none of the officers and soldiers moved, Navy Cmdr. Giovanni Bacordo took the initiative of ordering the troops to get inside the house.

"I'm sorry sir, but our chain of command now is the FOIC (Mayuga)," Bacordo said as he tried to push his way inside.

A brief scuffle broke out before the troops forced their way into the house, packing the Viray family's belongings into cardboard boxes for their forced relocation.

Viray threatened to file robbery charges against those involved in the evictions.

As of press time yesterday, former Commodores Arturo Capada and Julito Casillan, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz and Rear Admiral Pio Garido had been evicted while their wives, grownup children and other members of the households heckled the eviction team and tried to get their names for a lawsuit.

"The FOIC should be here to answer for this. He's the one who ordered this. If he's man enough, then he should show himself," said retired Navy Capt. Julian Advincula.

## Proclamation No. 461

He said they had been trying to talk to Mayuga but he refused to talk to them.

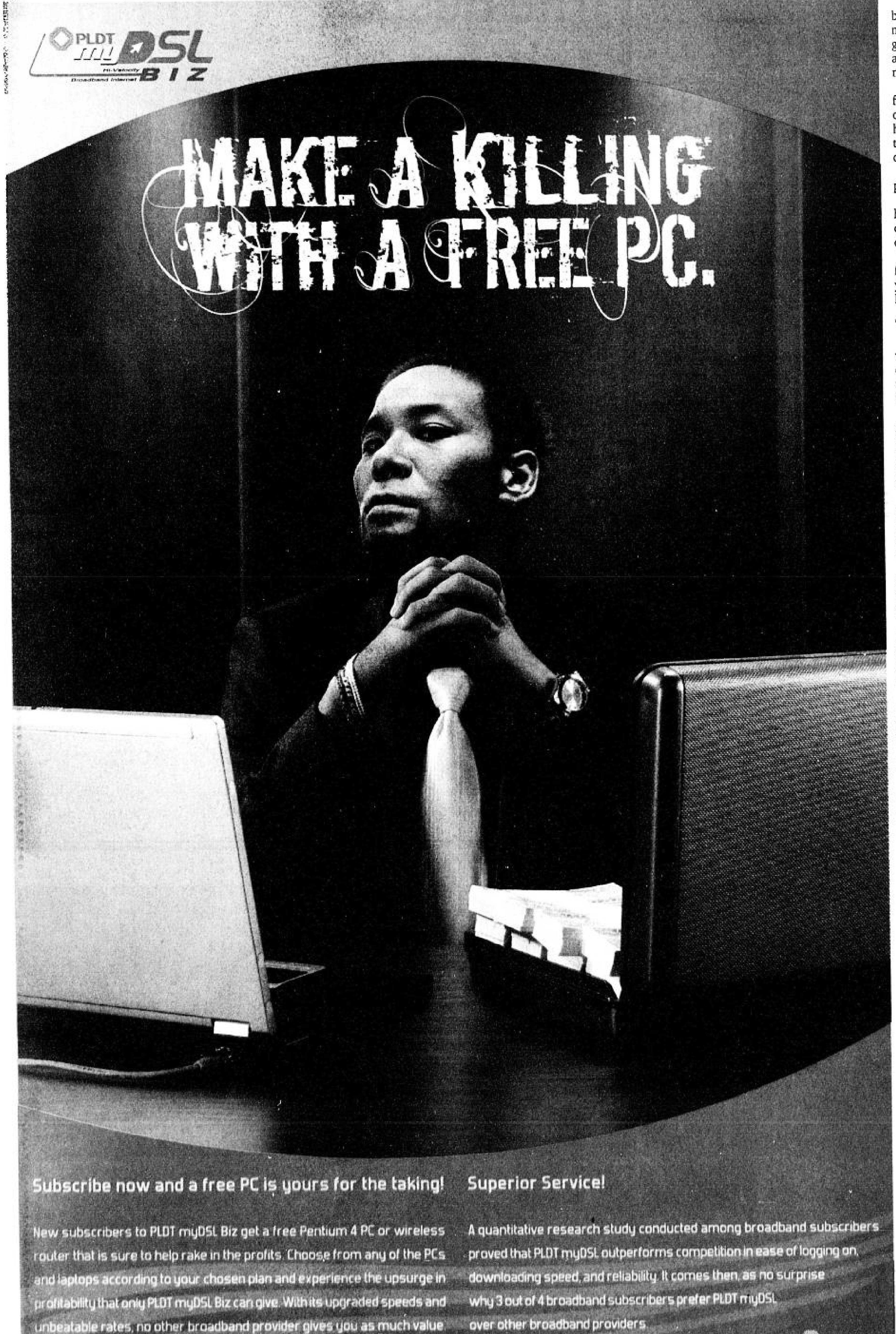
The retired generals laid claim to the BNS based on Proclamation No. 461 issued by the late President Diosdado Macapagal declaring parts of the Fort Bonifacio military reservation for military housing.

They were able to get a title in the name of the Naval Officers Village Association Inc. (NOVAI) to 47.5 hectares inside Fort Bonifacio, including the Marine parade grounds and the 20-hectare BNS where the officers' quarters were built.

The military has claimed NOVAI's title issued in 1992 was spurious. The Pasig court has upheld the title. The case is on appeal.

The retired generals have asked for a temporary restraining order before the Makati and Pasig courts, but these were denied.

*With a report from AFP*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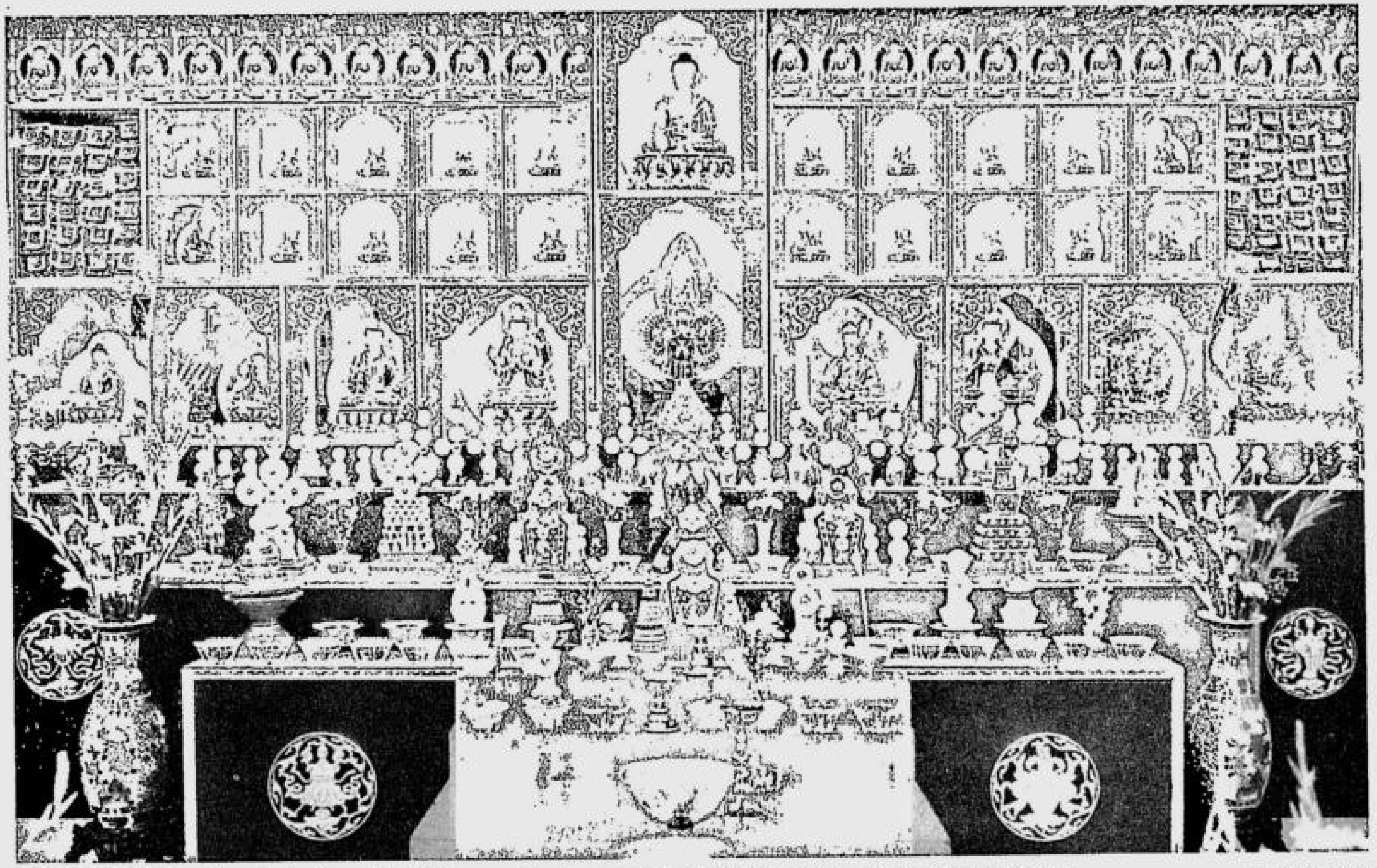
Turn to section C, Lifestyle pages 1-8

# Tibetan temple in Manila offers more than visual appeal



**THE MAIN** shrine of the Nedo Kagyu Bodhi Dharma Center, one of only five Tibetan temples in the Philippines. EDWIN BACASMAS

**OMZE** Jurme, temple chanting master. EDWIN BACASMAS

## Artwork by monks stand out in Sta. Mesa landscape

**By Joscephine Gomez**
*Contributor*

WHEN ONE ENTERS THE MYSTIcally beautiful edifice on Magistrado Abad Santos Street in Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila, there is more than the unusual architecture that draws one to the structure.

The Nedo Kagyu Bodhi Dharma Tibetan Temple stands out in a community of residential houses, sari-sari stores and a *talipapa*.

Its architectural design, artwork and dharma objects (which represent and are used for the practice of teachings) have meaning, purpose and power to achieve certain ends, according to Chutimpa Pema Techog, administrator of the temple. He is also one of four monks in the center who lead the prayer life and education of the temple's devotees, as well as the community-at-large.

The center is one of five temples of Tibetan Buddhism in the Philippines, which can all be found in Metro Manila. It is, however, the only one with an authentic Tibetan design as it is patterned after the Karma Kagyu sect's main temple in Sikkim, India, very near Tibet.

The other four are located on Biak-na-Bato Street (membership: 1,000) in Quezon City; Silencio Street (over 50 members)

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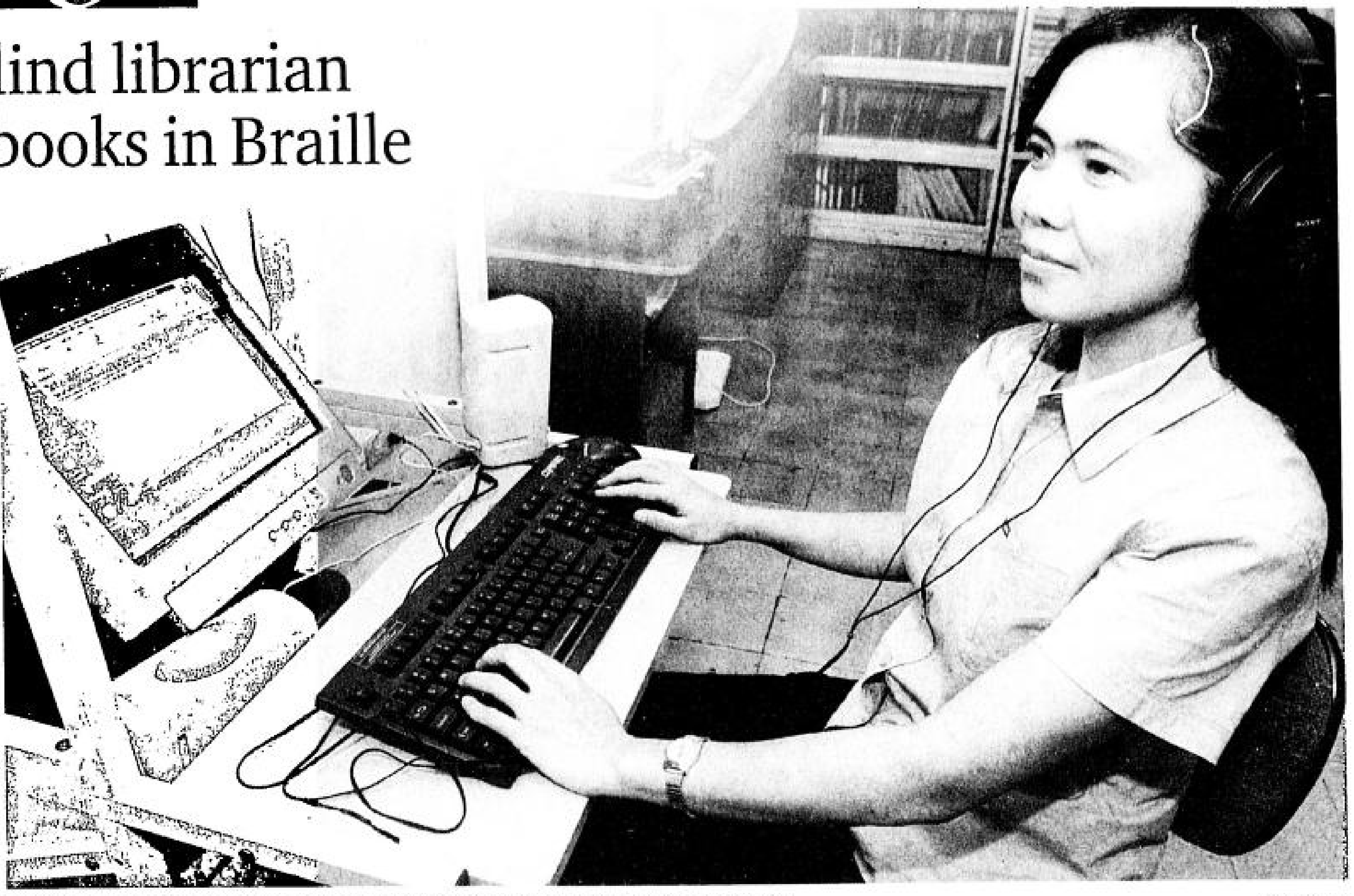
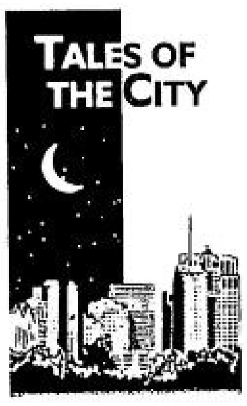
# Shining through in world of darkness

## National Library's only blind librarian guards treasure trove of books in Braille



VILVAR underwent special computer proficiency training in a school in Philadelphia. REM ZAMORA

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**



WHERE HER EYES GAVE UP, HER heart did not.

In her little kingdom at the ground floor of the National Library in Manila, Maria Lea Vilvar—the only blind librarian at the institute's special division—vividly remembers the day her world plunged into darkness.

Vilvar, a 35-year-old native of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, was in the first grade when she had trouble reading the writing on the classroom blackboard.

"Just like any other child, I was afraid of the dark. But I realized that what I was experiencing then was a different kind of darkness," she told the INQUIRER.

Her classmates began to make fun of her, calling her names and even stealing her *baon* (packed lunch). It was, she recalled, a very trying time for a seven-year-old girl.

### Life-changing news

"I was later diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, which enabled me to make out things with my eyes. But it became extremely difficult for my brain to recognize the images," Vilvar said. Although she could still see sketchy images of things and people, she could not distinguish colors or faces.

After Vilvar was diagnosed to be suffering from the ailment, her mother decided to transfer her to the Philippine National School for the Blind (PNSB) in Pasay City for her elementary and high school education.

There, she was trained in the rudiments of household work. She also mastered the intricacies of the Braille system and learned how to socialize with "sighted people."

"Being at the PNSB was like being in a cocoon: we all knew each other and shared similar experiences as blind students," Vilvar said.

However, nagging thoughts about college and her future would occasionally enter her mind. So when former students of PNSB paid them a visit, Vilvar wasted no time in asking them about their chosen careers.

"I was disappointed that most of them ended up as reflexologists and masseurs despite getting college degrees in education," she recalled.

There was nothing wrong with massaging clients for a living, she stressed, "but the line of work put limitations on their abilities in the eyes of other people."

Vivar told herself that she could do better, and began to pray.

Her answer, happily, came in the form of two scholarship grants: one enabled her to get an education degree at the Philippine Women's University, and another sent her abroad for a year to undergo special computer proficiency training at the Overbrook International School for the Blind in Philadelphia.

THE MOST popular reading material in the National Library's special division are two "Harry Potter" books — in Braille. REM ZAMORA

### Unexpected advice

All was going well for the young Vilvar, until her college professor at PWU convinced her to change her major from English studies to library science.

"I was devastated when my professor discouraged me because my heart was set on focusing on English literature and language," Vilvar recalled.

Her professor, in hindsight, had a point. Among the many obstacles that she would have to face was the serious lack of English textbooks in Braille, had she decided to push through with her original plan.

"Instead of giving up, I thought of another course that would provide me with bigger job opportunities after graduation," Vilvar said.

Thinking that all her contemporaries would either choose education or social work as a career, Vilvar decided to take up library science as her professor had advised.

It turned out that fortune was again smiling on her. While she was on internship at the PNSB library, officials of the National Library visited the school in preparation for the construction of a division for the blind at the institute.

"They interviewed me and told me that I could apply at the National Library as part of their staff when I complete my degree," Vilvar said.

True enough, the young graduate was hired as one of the resident librarians at the Library for the Blind Division in 1995. "I could not believe that I got what I prayed for," Vilvar said, smiling at the memory of her first day at work.

Today, more than a decade later, the 35-year-old assists some 215 blind regulars at the division and guards a treasure trove of 4,000 books in Braille, 500 large-print books and a thousand tapes.

"The most popular and most borrowed books in Braille here are two donated copies of Harry Potter," Vilvar said, grinning.

While the books in Braille are popular among the totally blind, the librarian explained that large-print books, with their half-inch fonts, are used by those with poor vision.

### Tapes, not books

Vilvar noted that "tape-listening" probably topped the regulars' list of library activities.

"Sadly, most of our patrons now rely on tapes—where they could listen to their books of choice being read—instead of borrowing books," the librarian lamented.

This is disadvantageous especially for blind students, whose grasp of spelling have declined with their continued reliance on the tapes, she explained.

"But we also admit that the library's limited collection of books and dependence on foreign donations have contributed greatly to this trend," Vilvar said.

She also stressed that the library's lack of modern equipment and small space was equally frustrating. "In the United States, libraries for the blind take up an entire building," Vilvar said.

She explained that books in Braille normally take up a lot of space because of their volume and bulk. A pocketbook, for example, when translated into Braille, would equal two three-inch thick tomes.

Apart from recording books on audio tapes for their clients, the librarians at the blind division translate and print portions of textbooks or student handouts into Braille through a special computer program and emboss them for free.

Vilvar and two of her fellow librarians also assist regulars in using the division's two computers, equipped with the Job Access With Speech (JAWS) program, that allows the user to hear the words or commands on screen being read aloud.

As the division's sole blind librarian, Vilvar has the special task of classifying and arranging books in Braille which her colleagues cannot read.

"Of course, it is also easier for me to connect with our patrons because I know and have actually experienced their concerns," the librarian said "All this has been a realization of my greatest dream: to put into practice what I learned in college and help other blind people at the same time."

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# Tibetan temple in Manila ...

From page A23

in Sta. Mesa, Manila; in White Plains, Quezon City (50 members) and on Abad Santos Street in Chinatown. (The membership in the last temple could not be determined).

The Tibetan temple in Bacood was built in 2000 by a group of Filipinos and Chinese-Filipinos five years after the community gathered to pray in an apartment in Binondo, Manila, and a rented space across the Sta. Cruz Church.

Strange and mystical as it appears, the Tibetan temple in Bacood stands as a fort, a shield, a buffer against life's many twists and turns.

The shrine hall, for instance, is designed to allow individuals to get in touch with the highest aspect of their nature—the Buddha nature—which is believed to reside in every person. This is where one receives the Teachings from a spiritually-advanced teacher called Lama.

Three objects at the altar are held most sacred by Buddhists in the Vajrayana tradition (Vajra stands for diamond strength, unchanged, indestructible while yana is the vehicle that will carry one to Nirvana). These are the statue of a Buddha or Boddhisattva, the sacred text wrapped in maroon or yellow cloth and the miniature *stupa*.

The statue represents the body of Buddha, the sacred text stands for speech while the *stupa* represents the mind of Buddha. (In Buddhism, every sentient being has a Buddha nature).

Pictures of other sacred beings—Buddhas, Boddhisattvas, Lamas and Protectors—surround the three sacred objects.

### The eight auspicious signs

The eight auspicious signs significant to the Vajrayana path in Buddhism (There are 10 different schools in Buddhism) are used unsparingly in the temple: the Precious Vase, the Precious Parasol, the Golden Fish, the Lotus Flower, the White Conch Shell, the Magnificent Knot, the Victory Banner and the Dharma Wheel.

It is believed that when Shakyamuni Buddha was born 2,550 years ago, all heavenly beings gathered around him and presented him with eight gifts, which later on became a feature of every Tibetan temple.

The Precious Vase is meant for wishing that all sentient beings may receive the complete and flawless teachings of Buddha.

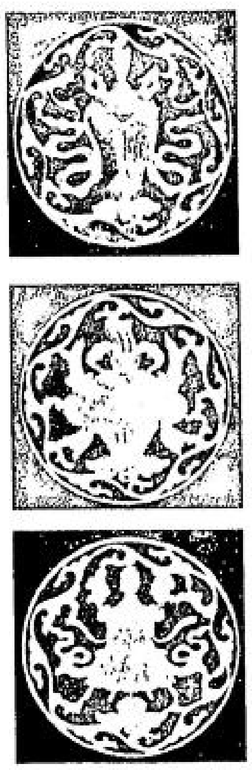
The Precious Parasol, used by Vajrayana Masters in giving empowerment and teaching, represents a wish for all beings' liberation from suffering.

The Golden Fish symbolizes wisdom and is used for wishing that others develop wisdom to realize the truth of all phenomena.

The Lotus, which is untainted by mud although it grows in muddy places, represents a wish that all may develop the capacity to benefit other beings.

The Conch Shell, which was used as a warning signal during wartime in India, stands for that which can be heard from far and wide such as teaching. It is offered with a wish that all beings be free from attachments to craving and aversion.

THE AMITAYUS-DEITIES that answer petitions for longevity EDWIN BACASMAS



THE CONCH SHELL (top), one of the auspicious signs. Others are the golden fish (center) and precious parasol. EDWIN BACASMAS

### Eightfold path

The Victory Banner represents the attainment of supreme enlightenment while the Dharma Wheel with eight spikes represents the teachings of Buddha—the Eightfold Path of right view, right thought, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right diligence, right mindfulness and right concentration.

Practitioners turn this wheel 12 times to remember Buddha's teachings on the Four Noble Truths: the truth about suffering, the origin of suffering, the cessation of suffering and the path to the cessation of suffering.

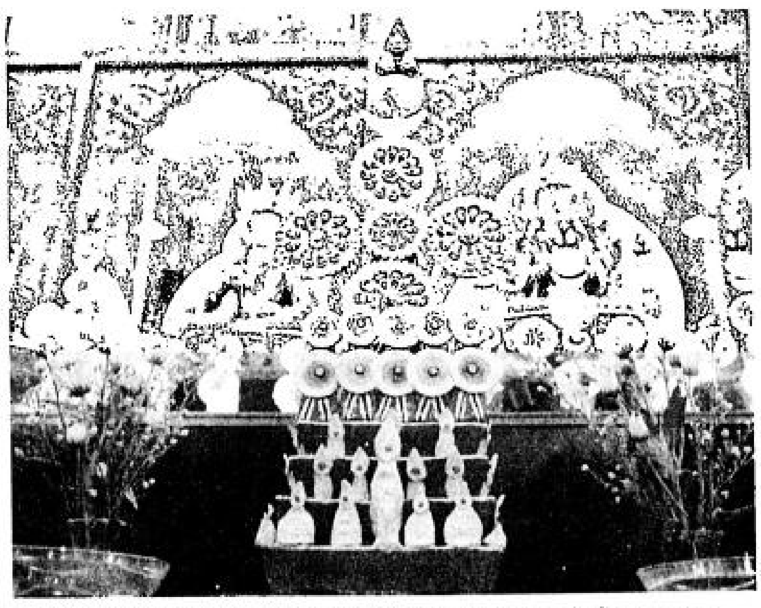
Two other objects in the Tibetan temple, which are not just *objets d'art*, are the Dorje, which is believed to destroy the ignorance of sentient beings, and the bell, the symbol of awakening from ignorance which is considered the root cause of all suffering.

The two objects are placed beside each other as wisdom (the bell) and skillful means (*dorje*) must go together.

### Musical instruments

Visitors to the temple will notice a unique hand drum called damaru. Made of human skin and bone donated by Lamas before their death, the drum is played when praising the meritorious deeds of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

The *kangkling*, which is made from human thigh bone, is an instrument with a sound that is akin to the mantra that has power over demons. Its function is similar to the phurpa, except that the latter may not be used unless one has been authorized by transmission to do so.



THE TORMA, a cake used as an offering, usually made from oat or barley flour. EDWIN BACASMAS

Another intriguing piece is the *kapala* set which consists of a cup made from a human skull and a stand composed of three more skulls. It is used as a reminder for impermanence and the three realms: form, desire and the formless realms where all beings are believed to exist, unliberated from suffering.

The Double Dorje, a cross formed by two *dorjes*, symbolizes the emptiness of the four elements: earth, fire, wind and water.

Very conspicuous are the Tibetan rosaries used for reciting mantras. Consisting of 108 beads, they come in a variety of materials—wood, coral, semi-precious stone and even seeds.

Three precious vases adorn the shrine hall: the chubum, the tshebum and the terbum. The chubum, which contains nectar and peacock feathers and is complemented by soft colorful fabrics, is used in the empowerment ceremony.

The tshebum, a vase without a mouth, is held by a Buddha while the terbum has a cover and no mouth.

Apart from these dharma objects, there are many more elements in the Tibetan temple which cannot be discussed here due to lack of space. They, nevertheless, have an important function in the practice of Buddhism.

All the artwork in the temple, including the colors chosen, have meaning and power over a multitude of concerns. The most commonly used are red, yellow, black, white, green and blue.

According to Chutimpa Pema Techog, all the artwork was done by the monks. This is apparent in the painstakingly executed designs and level of mastery that is reflective of their high standard in the performance of any task and their adeptness at concentration.

(Vesak Day—the day of birth, death and enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha—is celebrated by Buddhists worldwide on the full moon day of the 4th lunar month in the Indian calendar. It will be celebrated on May 28 at the Nedo Kagyu Bodhi Dharma Center. The public is invited. For details, call 7821402.)

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to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

# DI dances the night away in Beijing

**By Kenneth M. del Rosario**
*Contributor*

FRITZEL "FRITZ" LABINGHISA, 29, HAS BEEN working in China for almost two years now. In just a short period of time, he has literally danced his way to success and has proven that Filipino entertainers can make it big abroad.

**WINNING PAIR.** Fritz and his Chinese dance partner grab with a sensuous Latin number the top prize at the 2nd Romance Ballroom Dancing Cup 2005 in Beijing.

Fritz's international dancing career began a couple of years ago, when a Filipino friend invited him, along with four other Filipino dancers, to produce and choreograph a Broadway-type Latin dance show in Beijing.

A freelance dance instructor in Manila for eight years, he was more than ready to try his luck abroad and bring his dancing career to new heights by the time he left for China in November 2004.

## Getting the steps

Fritz owes his dancing skills to his Ilonggo parents who, according to him, share the same love he has for dancing.

Growing up in Dumaguete City, he started showing interest in dancing by joining modern and hip-hop dance clubs in high school. But he didn't fully realize his fervor for dancing until his college years when he moved to Manila in 1994.

"I never really liked dancing that much until I took ballroom classes back in college," Fritz told the INQUIRER in an overseas phone interview.

He took his dancing lessons seriously and practiced regularly to hone his craft. Not long after, Latin ballroom dances became his forte. He realized how good he actually was and had, since then, took dancing by heart.

Fritz was a computer technician by profession when he graduated from college in 1996 but never got to practice his degree. He, instead, went to become a full-time freelance dance instructor, working almost every night in different clubs in Manila.

Aside from teaching dance lessons, he also filmed instructional dance videos which featured him and his latest dancing moves. He then sold these to ballroom lovers and patrons of the bars and clubs he frequented.

In 1999, he became an active member of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines. A year later, he competed for his very first professional dancing competition in Manila and was able to get as far as the final round. And though he didn't win that night, he vowed to get better and win next time. That night, he also realized that dancing, indeed, is what he wants to do for the rest of his life.

## Swing it

"Even then I was very competitive. I always try to be the best that I can be," Fritz said as he recalled how happy he was that he found fulfillment and an unparalleled happiness in dancing.

After more than a month of vigorous preparation and hardwork, the Latin dance show he choreographed in December 2004, "Swinging the night away," was a big hit in Beijing's Kerry Center Hotel where ticket prices sold up to as high as $120 each.

"Everyone was on their feet after the performance. I needed that kind of validation," he said.

For the next month after the dance show, he continued performing in several bars and clubs in Beijing before coming home to the Philippines. Even before coming home, he already knew that he wanted to go back to China and continue his dance career's amazing start.

Fritz spent a 12-day vacation with his girlfriend and soon-to-be wife Joy(they plan to marry soon) and his then four-month old son John Fritz in Parañaque. They would spend the whole time together and would go to malls and parks to catch up with each other's lives.

## Back to China

He had to muster all his strength when he decided to fly again to work in China.

It was hard for him to leave his family behind again. "It was a very hard thing to do but I had to do it," Fritz said, referring to the loneliness he feels every time he misses his family. "I'm doing it for them (family)."

He flew to China for the second time in July 2005, this time on his own. He immediately got a job as a dance teacher in Salsa5 Dance Club, one of the most popular dance studios in Beijing.

There, he started teaching dance classes twice a week. "It was a welcome change from teaching one or two clients at a time to teaching a whole class all at once," he said.

By then, Fritz was already earning more than $500 a month—enough to support his family and his two younger brothers (he has an older sister). But by October 2005, he got a much bigger offer from Western Union as a money transfer consultant.

And yet, he could never stray away too far from his true passion: He worked overtime and continued teaching dance lessons. "I am a dancer first, no matter what," he said.

In less than two years, Fritz already collected several awards from different national dancing competitions all over China.

He competed and won top prizes at the Beijing 2nd Romance Cup Ballroom Competition and at the Beijing Welcome Olympic Cup Ballroom Dancing, both in 2005. Add to that runner-up positions in the Southeast China Ballroom Dancing Open 2005 and at the Zhengzhou National Ballroom Dancing Championship 2006, among others.

He had also received numerous invitations to perform at different dancing competitions, product launches, press conferences, school anniversaries, awarding programs, and other special events.

In November 2005, he performed at the First Beijing Salsa Festival in front of hundreds of people. Three months later, he was invited to perform at another Salsa Festival, this time in Hong Kong. "And I'm not stopping," he said.

In other words, he would keep on improving his dancing skills and participating in different dancing competitions.

This early, he is considering a trip to the United States for an invitation to perform at the Los Angeles Salsa Congress next year.

## It's safe here

With all the accolades he has received for his dancing skills, Fritz remains humble and rooted to the ground. "I know where I stand," he said. "There is still so much I want to achieve and I feel like I'm just getting started."

He also advises Filipino entertainers who are planning to go abroad to develop self-respect. "Let's not put ourselves down. We are Filipinos and we deserve respect," he said, urging his fellow Filipinos to put their inferiority complex aside.

Fritz is also all praises to China. "It's a very good place. I have never felt so safe and secure," he said, citing how disciplined local Chinese are and how cheap the cost of living there is.

"But there is nothing like the Philippines, my home," he said.

He is looking forward to seeing his girlfriend and son again in a well-deserved and a much longer vacation in the Philippines this coming September.

Fritz dreams of having his own dance studio in the Philippines in the near future. He would also like to capitalize on another hobby—photography, by putting up his own photo and video shop one day.

"And someday," he said, "My son is also going to be a dancer just like me."

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# Show brings home to Filipinos worldwide

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FILIPINOS ABROAD WOULD GET to feel like they are back home even if only for a short time through music and comedy.

The "Kumustahan—A Musical & Trade Tour" is set to go on another trip starting in August to bring to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Europe and the Middle East a sampling of the entertainment they miss from home.

In the last two years, Kumustahan has visited cities in the Netherlands, England, Italy, Austria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar. This year's cross-continent tour will cover for the first time Madrid and Barcelona, Spain's centers of business and culture.

In August, Kumustahan takes off in Sydney, Melbourne, Saipan and Guam. Its Europe in October, and Middle East in November. It will go to USA and Canada in April next year. Asia Pacific, June 2007.

A project of the independent production outfit Star Events Inc., Kumustahan 2006 will visit 10 key cities in 30 days, bringing top local artists to about 30,000 Filipinos abroad.

Four other European cities on the Kumustahan itinerary are Milan and Rome in Italy, Vienna in Austria, and London in the United Kingdom. The concert will cover Kuwait, Doha in Qatar, Muscat in Oman, and Dubai in the UAE.

### Goosebumps

In previous tours, according to Victor Fabregas Alcuaz, producer of the concert tour, "If you see Filipinos watching (the show), you might get goosebumps or even be moved to tears (as) you see everyone enjoying."

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) is sponsoring the event again, while the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration would provide "moral support."

Alcuaz said tickets are priced at $10-$15 to allow more OFWs to watch the show. Among the performers expected to join this year's tour are Ogie Alcasid, Rico J. Puno, Bituin Escalante, Jolina Magdangal, Francis Magalona and Nanette Inventor.

"Kumustahan is about having fun with one another," he said. "It's not just about making money."

RP COLORS TAKE CENTER STAGE. APO Hiking Society's Buboy Garrovillo, Danny Javier, and Jim Paredes stand proud before an all-Filipino crowd in Kumustahan 2005 in Kuwait.

kumustahan
sa bahrain 2005

BROADCASTER-TURNED-SINGER Angelique Lazo dishes out a Filipino love song in Bahrain.

Now on its third annual tour, Kumustahan revives the concept behind "Hatid Saya," an annual overseas musical tour in the 80s that also featured Filipino artists and comedians.

The late comedian Bert "Tawa" Marcelo headed the troupe. Sponsored by the government, the program, as its name suggested, aimed to bring cheers to OFWs.

Also supported by Owwa, Hatid Saya brought to Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific such artists as Pilita Corrales, Dulce, the late Ricky Belmonte, Cherie Gil, The Pork Chop Duo, The Angforgettables, Angelique Lazo, the late Diomedes Maturan, Nova Villa and many others.

### Biggest hit

"It was always big ... we would bring seven to eight artists. But the biggest hit was Nora [Aunor] in 1990," Alcuaz said.

The program was discontinued during the 1991 Gulf War.

A private entertainment company tasked by Owwa to co-produce the last two Hatid Saya concerts in 1988 and 1989, Star Events Inc., revived the spirit of Hatid Saya via Kumustahan.

Alcuaz recalled that during the 1989 Kuwait leg of Hatid Saya, his group faced with the challenge of accommodating a turnout larger than expected.

To accommodate all those who were eager to watch their idols, three shows, instead of one, were held on the same day.

In 2004, Hatid Saya was back, repackaged into the bigger Kumustahan.

### Bigger than ever

Star Events established partners in regular host cities which enabled it to find venues big enough for its steadily growing audience.

"We ask (partner organizations) to look for a venue accessible to OFWs, places that are familiar or easy to find," he said.

Last year, Kumustahan registered its largest audience, when some 5,000 Pinoys watched the the show in Kuwait.

Even before it can start its 2006 tour, Star Events is already preparing for a bigger Kumustahan in 2007, covering four continents and visiting major cities in North America, Asia and the Pacific, in addition to Europe and the Middle East.

Alcuaz said it would be a whole day affair, with a barrio fiesta-like atmosphere, town plaza gatherings, games, talent and beauty contests.

Filipino entrepreneurs could have booths in what would be like a "tiangge." Even traders from Manila could join.

GENEVA CRUZ gives her all in 2005 Middle East tour.

A NATURAL CROWD FAVORITE, Nanette Inventor mixes music and politics also in 2005 Middle East tour.

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# Filipino-Americans more interested in Mega than GMA

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINO-AMERICANS ARE MORE likely to ask about Megastar Sharon Cuneta than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

For Filipinos in America, entertainment is much more interesting than politics.

On a visit to my sister and cousins living in the United States East Coast three years ago, the Filipinos I met were more eager to learn about what happened to Kris Aquino and Joey Marquez.

At that time, the Philippines had just survived the Oakwood mutiny and was getting ready for the 2004 presidential elections.

### Source of relaxation

But they were no match to the accusations made by Aquino, daughter of a modern-day hero and an ex-president, against then Parañaque City Mayor Marquez of physical abuse that included pointing a gun to her head.

Aquino also tearfully announced she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease from him.

My Virginia-based cousin, Kuya Robert, offered a simple explanation last week for this seeming indifference to Philippine political developments.

"We work so hard here. We have problems of our own. Keeping (updated on) Pinoy showbiz has become our source of relaxation," he said.

Robert added, "I e-mailed you asking about Chat Silayan but I didn't even ask how GMA was."

My cousin, who's a little over 40 and has lived in the US nearly half his life, alsó said that among those with The Filipino Channel (TFC), soap operas and noontime shows like "Wowowee" and "Game Ka Na Ba?" had bigger audiences than the news.

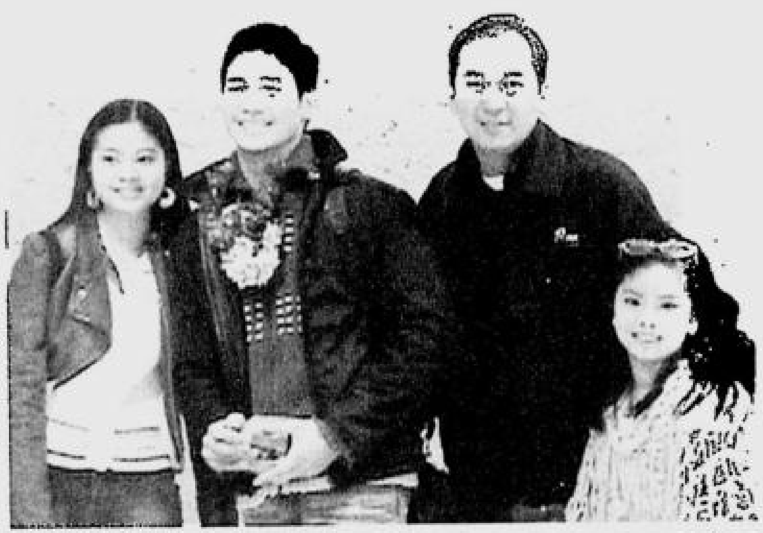
### Gulong ng Palad

The past months, Robert wakes up to "Gulong ng Palad" on TFC every morning.

His mother-in-law and his children's *yaya* never miss the Kristine Hermosa-TJ Trinidad tearjerker.

"They also watch the other soap operas and the Filipino movies—the black-and-white ones—and *'yung mga* movies where *payat pa si* Sharon," Robert chuckled.

My cousin's not complaining because TFC also provides him his daily television fare—except during the National Basketball Association season. He's had TFC, which charges $23 a month for four channels and two radio stations, for two years.



LIKE any other Filipino in a strange land, Piolo Pascual takes time out for a picture-taking session with concert producer Robert Dizon and friends.

His youngest sister, Jocelyn, has subscribed to TFC for four years running.

"We also get homesick. When we watch TFC, it's just like being there in the Philippines ," he said.

Having TFC allow them to keep abreast of the latest showbiz happenings, from juicy "tsismis" to the Pinoy movies they should watch out for in Fil-Am video stores.

With TFC, GMA-7's new cable channel, and the Internet, Fil-Ams no longer have to rely only on Filipino community newspapers in Oriental stores to get the latest showbiz news.

"When they started TFC, that's when Pinoy artists became more visible and popular among Fil-Ams in the US," Robert said.

### Live concerts

Our *kababayan* get to see Pinoy superstars in person through live concerts.

Robert himself produces concerts and shows, the latest featuring stand-up comic Rex Navarrette.

"It's amazing when you see all these Filipinos in one place. It feels like home. Pinoys would bring their American spouses, and they can relate to the Filipino humor, especially in a comedy show like Rex's," he said.

"It's a lot of hard work but it's addicting, especially if the concert, like the one of Rex, gets sold out," he added.

"It's nice to have these artists over ... but it's also taking a toll on Fil-Am producers like me," he said.

Robert said his counter-part producers in the Philippines who "sell" concerts to Fil-Am producers were charging them too much money now.

"They know there is a demand ... But our Fil-Am audience also has a budget for these concerts. *Hindi naman pinupulot ang pera dito.* We all work for it. Everybody pays rent," Robert said.

Robert said a concert now cost between $30,000 to $50,000. "To break even, we have to charge almost $75 per ticket. That's a lot of money," he said.

### Rubbing elbows with stars

With overcharging becoming a "growing problem," Fil-Am producers in New York organized themselves to address the problem together.

"They now have an association to avoid overcharging and having concerts every month because they don't want to saturate the market," Robert said.

Despite the difficulties, Robert said he still wants to produce concerts and expresses hope that their Philippine counterparts would offer reasonable concert packages.

"I wanted to bring over Sarah Geronimo because she's my favorite, too. But her concert package price was way too much for me," Robert, the fan, said.

One fringe benefit for Fil-Am producers is they also get to rub elbows with their favorite stars.

Singer Bituin Escalante had dinner once in the house of Robert's other sister, Marjorie.

"Sometimes I still can't believe I met Joey Albert and Martin Nievera in person. *Si* Joey Albert, *sinundo ko pa sa airport at pinasyal* when, before, in the Philippines, I only got to see her on TV. It's quite surreal," Robert laughed.

Fil-Am fans are not much different from fans here at home.

"*Nakakatuwa sa lahat* when I was touring Piolo Pascual, his was one of the first concerts I produced. *Talagang inabangan siya ng mga babae sa* Pinoy stores! *Nagtilian, nagpa-picture, nagpa-autograph!*" Robert said.

As we talked, in the background I could hear my two-year-old nephew, Paolo, singing the Donna Cruz song, "Mr. Dreamboy."

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## 'KONEK KA DIYAN'

# How to link lives and loves across the world

By Leila B. Salaverria

CHILDREN NEGLECTING THEIR education in the absence of guidance. A father turning to alcohol or to other women. A wife losing trust in her faraway husband.

All these problems could result from the lack of communication between an overseas Filipino worker and his family or from the worker's loneliness in a foreign country.

"Separation from their families is one of the major obstacles that most of our OFWs encounter," said Administrator Marianito Roque of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa).

But to strengthen the ties between a family and an OFW and to avoid the troubles that could arise from separation, Roque has a simple solution: Keep in touch regularly.

### Building ties

"Quality communication strengthens the family bond," he said. "If there is no communication, loneliness sets in."

Roque made the statements at the press launch last month of the "Konek ka diyan!" program, which is spearheaded by Owwa and Microsoft Philippines and aims to help OFW families purchase personal computers that they could use at home to keep in touch with loved ones abroad.

The program's goal is to help foster better relations between the OFW and his family by enabling them to have a new avenue for communication.

Roque said a personal computer hooked up to the internet is an effective tool to reach people abroad, and it is also less costly compared to other forms of communication like phone calls or short messaging system (SMS), popularly known as "texting."

"SMS texting and voice calls can be very expensive. They're one of the most expensive cost items drawn against OFWs' salaries," he said.

But through a computer with Internet, Roque said OFWs and families could talk or send e-mail everyday so that they would know what was going on in each other's lives.

### Thank God for PCs

A monthly Internet subscription can cost less than P1,000, while a prepaid Internet card with 20 free hours costs P100. A text message sent abroad could cost P15 each, while overseas calls usually costs $0.40 per minute.

With the Konek ka diyan! program, Owwa members could buy personal computers offered by Microsoft using the Family Assistance Loan from the Owwa.

Microsoft is offering three computer packages, the prices of which range from P24,200 to P36,000. The computers will come equipped with a webcam, a modem and a headset.

For every personal computer sold, Microsoft will also contribute a dollar to the Owwa Scholarship Fund, said Microsoft Philippines managing director Antonio Javier Jr.

Javier said the Konek ka diyan! program is meant to ease the loneliness of OFWs by "bridging the physical divide between them and their families." He said Microsoft has learned that loneliness is a major OFW problem because it leads to the disintegration of families.

"We recognize the hardships that our OFWs go through abroad and somehow, we want to ease their difficulties by offering the means to stay connected to their families," he said.

Roque said the Owwa would be targeting to help around 10,000 individuals with the Konek ka diyan! program in a one year period.

Also participating in the program are Intel Philippines and PLDT.

# US guards battle Guantanamo inmates in wild fight

WASHINGTON—TEN GUANTANAMO prisoners lured US guards into a cell with a staged suicide attempt, then attacked them with light fixtures, fan blades and other improvised weapons while guards fired rubber balls and used a grenade launcher to subdue them, US officials said on Friday.

The officials called Thursday's clash the most intense outbreak of violence at the jail for foreign terrorism suspects at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since it opened in January 2002.

Six prisoners were treated for "minor injuries" and none of the US guards was seriously hurt after the fight pitting 10 inmates against 10 US guards, the officials said. The fight ended only after guards blasted detainees five times with a 12 gauge shotgun shooting rubber balls and used a grenade launcher that shot a blunt rubber object, officials said.

While guards were putting down the fight, detainees in nearby cells began rioting, destroying cameras used to monitor them, fans, florescent lights and other property, officials said.

Human rights activists decry the indefinite detention of Guantanamo detainees and accuse the United States of torture.

The Pentagon insists detainees are treated humanely and not tortured, and says many dangerous al-Qaida and Taliban figures are held there.

Details of the clash emerged on the same day that the United Nations' top antitorture body told Washington that any secret jails it ran for foreign terrorism suspects, along with the Guantanamo facility, were illegal and should be closed. The United States has refused to give UN human rights investigators access to the detainees.

"The detainees had slickened the floor of their block with feces, urine and soapy water in an attempt to trip the guards.

"They then assaulted the guards with broken light fixtures, fan blades and bits of metal," said Navy Rear Adm. Harry Harris, who commands the Guantanamo facility. *Reuters*

# After 13 years, China completes Three Gorges dam at Yangtze

BEIJING—AFTER 13 YEARS OF IMMENSE physical effort and technical ingenuity, China Saturday put the finishing touches to its controversial Three Gorges dam, the world's largest hydropower project.

The official completion of the dam was marked by a short ceremony at the site broadcast live on state television, which touted it as an "important historic moment."

"I can announce to the Chinese people ... that the Three Gorges dam is completed," Li Yong'an, manager of the Three Gorges Construction Company, said shortly after the last load of cement was poured onto the top of the dam.

The 2,309-meter-long, 185-meter-high block of concrete across the Yangtze river is meant to control floods and generate electricity for a power-hungry nation, but for many Chinese it is about much more than that.

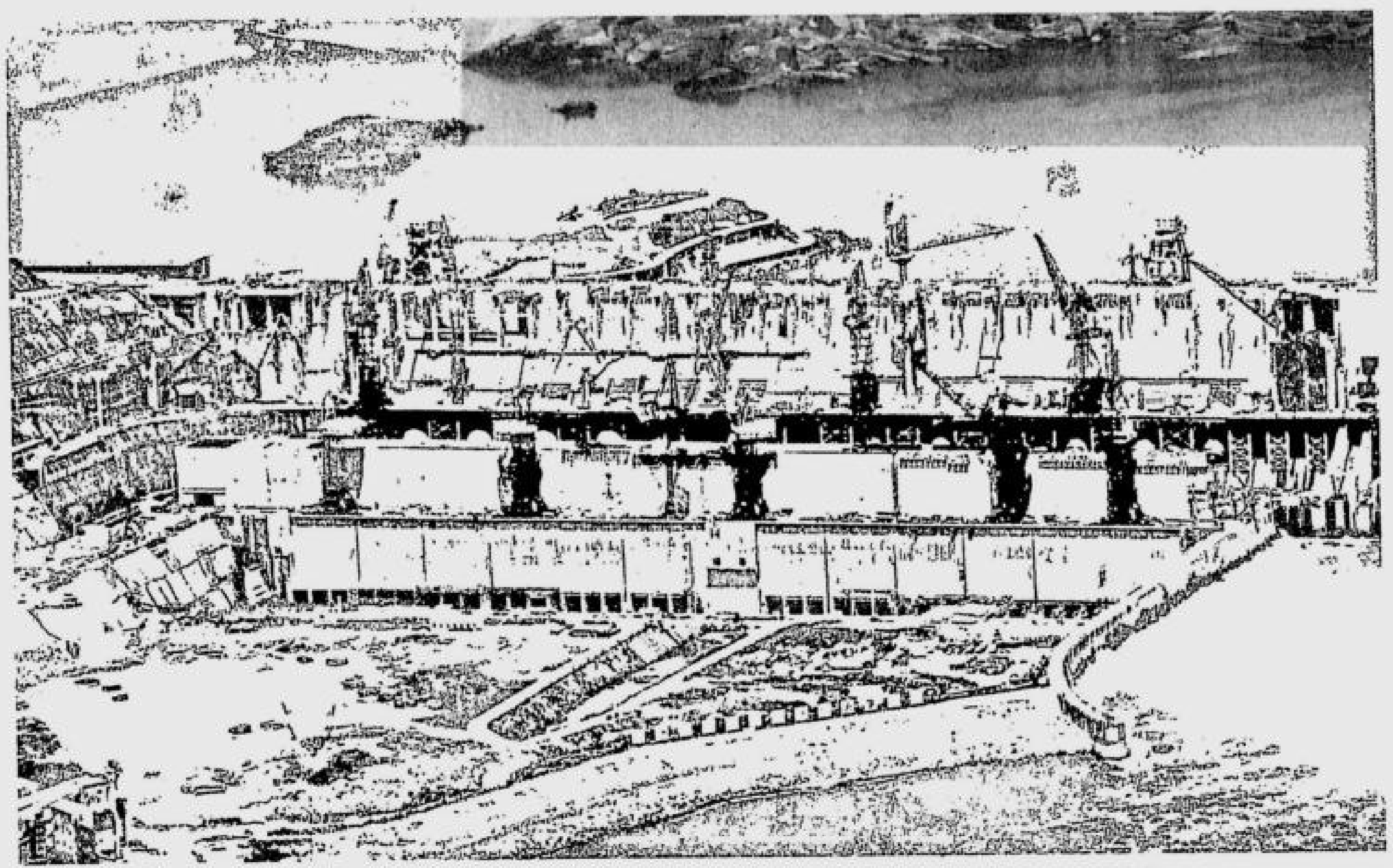
"The Three Gorges dam is excellent proof of what Chinese can accomplish," said Cao Guangjing, vice president of the China Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development Co. "This project will serve to inspire the Chinese people."

Although the final ton of concrete has been poured, the immense structure will still not be fully operational for another two years.

The last generators need to be installed, and work still needs to.be done on the ship lift that, together with a ship lock, will allow ocean-going vessels to navigate the vast reservoir that is filling up behind the dam.

Even while work was being carried out on the dam, engineers and laborers were reminded that flood control was one of the main reasons behind the giant project.

In 1998, a devastating flood on the Yangtze uprooted millions of families and killed more than 1,500 people. Two much larger disasters in the 1930s each claimed more than 140,000 lives.


**DISTANT** view of the Three Gorges hydropower project under construction on the Yangtze River in May 14 photo. AP

Nevertheless, critics continue to argue that silt build-up and other problems mean the dam will fail to provide the hoped-for flood relief.

Opponents also see damage to the environment, ruin to China's heritage and misery to local residents forced from their homes for the project.

However, harnessing the power of China's mightiest rivers is a dream harbored by generations of Chinese.

In the early 20th century, Sun Yat-sen, the founder of modern China, waxed lyrical about creating electricity that would be the equivalent of the strength of hundreds of millions of men.

Mao Zedong, the founder of communist China, wrote a poem hailing a dam that would some time in the future "strike the goddess of the Three Gorges with the miracles of the modern world."

It is no longer just the stuff of poetry. On the left bank, 14 sets of 700-megawatt turbine and generator units are already in operation.

On the right bank, another 12 700-megawatt units are under construction.

With a capacity already equivalent to Itaipu on the border of Brazil and Paraguay, currently the world's largest operating hydro-electric dam, the Three Gorges will eventually overshadow all others. *AFP*

# Good-bye, Mr. Chips at UK schools

LONDON—BRITISH EDUCATION Secretary Alan Johnson vowed on Friday to stop feeding pupils the "rubbish that they have been given for decades" with new rules cutting levels of sugar, fat and salt in English school meals.

Rules taking effect in September will ban low-quality meat, chips and chocolate, require pupils to eat at least two portions of fruit and vegetables with every meal, and limit them to two portions of French fries a week.

The nutritional standards follow a high-profile drive by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, who hosted a popular television program in 2004 that illustrated the poor quality, pre-packaged, fatty foods prepared in many school canteens.

The standards apply only to English schools since the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland set separate policies for schools.

Johnson said the new standards "will start to undo decades of neglect and ensure that healthy eating is the norm in every school."

The initiative would also promote diet, nutrition, food preparation and cooking as part of the curriculum, he added. *AFP*

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**Panibagong *Paraan* 2006**

Development with Equity

**May 26 and 27, 2006 • 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

Megatrade Hall, 5th Level, Building B, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

The Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace, or ***Panibagong Paraan*** *(New Ways)*, is about fresh perspectives, new ways of doing things, people working as one for positive change. Innovative projects and ideas presented by communities and ordinary citizens inspire, bring hope, and strengthen pride in the Filipino. Like the rays of the sun, these small successes, ideas and sentiments for positive change – when adopted, replicated and scaled up – can gradually radiate to other segments and communities of the country, and illuminate the path to development that benefits all, and not just a few.

With the theme, *Development with Equity*, Panibagong Paraan 2006 explores ways of equalizing opportunities - so that all Filipinos can have a chance for a better life and together, work for the nation's development. Development with equity means addressing issues on incomes, assets, services and voice.

**INNOVATIVE PROJECTS, POLICIES, AND IMAGES:**
**Rays of Hope towards Equalizing Chances for All**

- *Exhibit of 87 innovative projects from across the country*: Finalists for the Project Grant Competition exhibit and explain their project concepts to the public in a tiangge (bazaar) of ideas. Around 50 winners, to be selected by jury, will each receive up to PhP 1 million to implement their projects over a one-year period.
- *Showcase of ideas*: The two-day event will recognize winning entries in the Expression of Ideas competition through – a continuing exhibit of photos depicting images of development with equity, a mini-forum on winning policy proposals, and a display of excerpts of winning essays, capped by the slogans that were selected as best capturing the theme.
- *Multi-sectoral forum on Development with Equity:* a plenary session and roundtable discussions on how to replicate and scale up projects that address inequalities.
- *Helpful knowledge sharing sessions* for micro and small social entrepreneurs and policy advocates.

**PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES**

**Day 1: May 26, 2006**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9:30-10:00<br>(Outside Hall 3) | Registration |
| 10:00-11:00<br>(Hall 3) | Opening Program<br>Awarding Ceremonies for the Expression of Ideas Competition<br>Welcome Remarks<br>Mr. Joachim von Amsberg<br>Country Director, Philippines, The World Bank |
| 11:00:-12:00<br>(Hall 3) | Plenary Forum on Development with Equity<br>Dr. Cielito Habito<br>Director<br>Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development<br>Hon. Jesse Robredo<br>Mayor, Naga City<br>Hon. Esperanza Cabral<br>Secretary<br>Department of Social Welfare and Development |
| 12:00-12:30<br>(Hall 3) | Open Forum |
| 1:00-1:15<br>(Hall 3) | Formal Opening of Exhibits of Project Grants, Policy Proposals, Slogans, Essays, and Photographs |
| 1:15-2:00<br>(Halls 1 & 2) | Tour of Exhibits |
| 1:30-3:30<br>(Seminar rooms) | Simultaneous Roundtable Discussions<br>*Promoting equity through projects: Success and hindering factors and Potentials for scaling up*<br>1. Income and income opportunities<br>2. Access to or control of land and other assets<br>3. Access to basic services<br>4. People's participation and voice |
| 2:00-2:30pm<br>(Business Lounge, Hall 1) | Media Conference |
| 3:30-4:30 | Break |
| 4:30-6:00<br>(Hall 3) | Panel Discussion (open to the public)<br>*What can we do next?*<br>Synthesis: Mr. Ernesto Garilao<br>Professor, Asian Institute of Management<br>Moderator: Mr. Ricky Carandang<br>Broadcast Journalist, ABS-CBN News Channel<br>Resource Persons:<br>Hon. Ralph Recto<br>Senator, Senate of the Philippines<br>Ms. Malou Mangahas<br>VP for Research and Content Development<br>GMA7 News and Public Affairs<br>Mr. Francis Estrada<br>President<br>Asian Institute of Management<br>Mr. Joachim von Amsberg<br>Country Director, Philippines, The World Bank<br>Hon. Esperanza Cabral<br>Secretary, DSWD |

**Day 2: May 27, 2006**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00-12:00<br>(Expression of Ideas Booth, Hall 2) | Discussion with winners of Policy Proposal Competition (open to the public) |
| 2:00-5:00<br>(Seminar Rooms) | Knowledge Sharing Sessions (open to the public)<br>• Finance & capital<br>• Technology, research & development, and market linkages<br>• Project development<br>• Policy advocacy & the use of mass media |
| 5:30-9:00 | Awarding Ceremonies and Closing Program |

EXHIBITS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 10AM TO 9PM ON MAY 26 & 27

The World Bank Group
Australian Government AusAID
JAPAN
The Asia Foundation
USAID
IFC
ADB Asian Development Bank
CODE NGO
UNDP
SGP Small Grants Programme PHILIPPINES
Co-presented by
NEWSBREAK
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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# 'When will this stop?' Blasts kill 24 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—BOMBS KILLED 24 PEOPLE IN IRAQ on Saturday, including 19 in a Shiite district of Baghdad, hours before Iraq's parliament was to inaugurate a national unity government aimed at halting a slide toward civil war.

Police said 58 were wounded in the blast targeting Shiite laborers in eastern Sadr City slum. It was typical of bombings by Sunni Islamists like Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq.

Witnesses and police said the bomb appeared to have been planted in a spot where the attackers knew large crowds of men would gather shortly after dawn, hoping to be hired for a day's casual labor. Such spots have been targeted in the past.

"When will this stop? Where is the government?" one teenager sobbed as he stood amid pools of blood. A man beat his face with his hands as he hugged his dead brother lying on the floor.

Survivors rushed the wounded to hospital. A dozen bodies, their faces covered with cardboard, lay on the hospital garden.

In the town of Qaim, near the Syrian border, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive-packed vest inside a police station killing five policemen and wounding 10, police said.

Parliament had been due to sit at 11 a.m. to approve a government that may hold full sovereign powers for the four-year term of the legislature, but last-minute negotiations delayed the session.

A new government should end months of inertia amid mounting sectarian bloodshed and talk of impending civil war.

Launching a crucial new phase in the US-backed project to install democracy, Shiite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki struck a basic deal on Friday that left the key posts of interior and defense minister vacant, aides and top negotiators said.

There may be some fine-tuning at the last minute but, with jobs for nearly all parliamentary groups the assembly's approval for Maliki's ministers is likely to be a formality.

Iraqi leaders hailed a government of Sunni Arabs, Kurds and Shiites as a break from Iraq's past, marked by confrontation.

"It is an historic day for Iraq and all Iraqis," Deputy Parliament Speaker Khalid al-Attiya told a news conference.

"For the first time a permanent national government is formed after the toppling of the regime. All Iraqis participate in this government."

The government can be sure of an enthusiastic welcome in Washington, where frustration with Iraqis' sectarian and ethnic haggling has grown over the five months since an election hailed as a final step from Saddam Hussein's dictatorship to democracy.

For President George W. Bush, who launched the invasion in 2003, stability is key to bringing home 130,000 US troops. *Reuters*

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# Mullah Dadullah believed captured in Afghan clashes

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—FIERCE BATTLES raged in Afghanistan Saturday with a US soldier, two Afghan troops and six Taliban the latest to die in the heaviest fighting in the country for years.

**DADULLAH** AFP

Officials were meanwhile trying to establish if a seriously wounded one-legged militant captured after heavy gun battle was Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah, said to be one of the brains behind the insurgency.

A new battle involving about 100 soldiers and an equal number of Taliban erupted in southern Helmand province late Friday and continued into Saturday, military officials said.

The clash was not far from a major battle that erupted in Helmand's Musa Qala district on Wednesday. Sixty "enemy fighters" and 16 police were killed, the coalition said in a statement Friday.

The Musa Qala battle was one of several major clashes in Afghanistan over the past few days that have left around 200 Taliban dead in some of the heaviest fighting in the country since the Taliban regime was toppled in late 2001.

About 25 troops, police and civilians have also been killed, including a Canadian who became the country's first woman to be killed in battle since World War II.

The bloodiest battle in the past week has been in the Panjwayi area of Kandahar province, where the Taliban movement was formed in the early 1990s and took up arms to eventually control most of Afghanistan by 1996.

Around 100 Taliban were killed and 35 Taliban captured in Panjwayi, among them a man who may be the Taliban commander Dadullah, officials said.

Afghan forces said Friday the man was a "very important Taliban" commander, but were yet to formally identify him.

Reports said he was being detained by international troops, thousands of whom are deployed in Afghanistan to help in the hunt for diehard elements of the Taliban regime.

The Taliban denied that Dadullah had been captured. He is alive and healthy, Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Hanif said. *AFP*

# Columbus bones buried in Seville, Spaniards say

MADRID, SPAIN—SPANISH RESEARCHERS said they have resolved a century-old mystery surrounding Christopher Columbus's burial place, which both Spain and the Dominican Republic claim to be watching over. Their verdict: Spain's got the right bones.

A forensic team led by Spanish geneticist Jose Antonio Lorente has compared DNA from bone fragments that Spain says are from the explorer—and are buried in a cathedral in Seville—with DNA from remains that are known to be from Columbus' brother Diego, who is also buried in the southern Spanish city.

"There is absolute matchup between the mitochondrial DNA we have studied from Columbus' brother and Christopher Columbus," said Marcial Castro, a Seville-area historian and high school teacher who is the mastermind behind the project, which began in 2002. Mitochondria are cell components rich in DNA.

Castro and his research colleagues have been trying in vain for years to convince the Dominican Republic to open up an ornate lighthouse monument in the capital Santo Domingo that it says holds the remains of the explorer.

The goal of opening the lighthouse tomb was to compare those remains to the ones from Diego in Seville and determine which country had buried the man who arrived in the New World in 1492, landing at the island of Hispaniola, which today comprises the Dominican Republic and Haiti. *AP*

Sunday SPORTS
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
**Text us your feedback:** Inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Express roll back Gin Kings

## Bulls, Tigers eye quarters slot; Giants end elims vs Realtors

**GAMES TODAY**
(*Philsports Arena*)
4:10 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Purefoods
6:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Coca-Cola

**By Jasmine W. Payo**

CEBU—TAKING ADVANTAGE of a short-handed foe, the Air21 Express downed the Ginebra Kings, 107-100, in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Mandaue Sports and Cultural Center in Mandaue City here.

With Ginebra star Mark Caguioa sitting out a one-game suspension, the Express stormed to an 84-69 advantage before the Kings summoned a fourth-quarter rally that fell short.

The De Ocampo brothers—Yancy and Ranidel—joined forces by scoring 17 points apiece to lift the Express just a game behind the Kings at 6-9.

Playing in his hometown, Stephen Padilla provided the Express an unexpected boost with 15 markers and a career-high seven assists.

Jayjay Helterbrand led the Kings' comeback, lifting Ginebra within six points, 89-83, with seven minutes left in the final quarter.

But Ranidel de Ocampo stopped the rally with a key triple that kept the Express afloat at 96-87.

The Kings skidded to their second straight loss for a 6-8 slate despite reactivating reigning Most Valuable Player Eric Menk, who poured in 19 points.

Caguioa, the league's top scorer with a 24-point average, was suspended for his unsportsmanlike behavior in the Kings' 88-99 loss to Coca-Cola last Wednesday.

Also in sick bay for Ginebra are Romel Adducul, Rodney Santos and Andy Seigle.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola will try to remain in contention for an outright quarterfinal slot versus the third-running Red Bull at 4:10 p.m. today at the Philsports Arena.

Tigers coach Binky Favis' worries finally ended when the Tigers halted their five-game slide with a 99-88 triumph over Ginebra last Wednesday.

The Purefoods Giants, already assured of a semifinal stint with the San Miguel Beermen, will wrap up their elimination round campaign versus Sta. Lucia at 6:35 p.m.

The Purefoods Giants have also been trying to keep their focus after losing Eugene Tejada to a severe spinal injury.

**The scores:**

**AIR21 107**—Y. De Ocampo 17, R. De Ocampo 17, Padilla 15, Se 12, Arboleda 11, Telan 11, Cañaleta 10, Avenido 8, Dacia 6.

**GINEBRA 100**—Macapagal 23, Menk 19, Ferreria 15, Helterbrand 12, Holper 11, Sotto 11, Salangsang 6, Salvacion 2, Ramos 0, Dimaunahan 0.

**Quarters:** 24-17, 48-47, 84-69, 107-100

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WORLD CHESS

# 50th year for RP in Olympiad

**WITH YOUNG GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA MANNING THE top board for the first time, the Philippine team opens its bid in the 37th World Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy today.**

GM Eugene Torre, the longtime RP No. 1 in the event, will be on the second board this time, fellow GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. will be on No. 3 and national master Darwin Laylo will complete the regular top four boards.

The alternate players are Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling and 12-year-old FM Wesley So, who will be making his debut in the country's 50th participation in the biennial meet.

The Filipinos are bidding to improve their 19th place finish in the 2004 Palma de Mallorca edition which was won by Ukraine.

In the distaff side, newly installed women's coach NM Cesar Caturla will parade veterans WIMs Sheerie Joy Lomibao and Beverly Mendoza and neophyte WNMs Catherine Pereña and Sherilly Cua.

The Filipinas hope to surpass their 48th place performance two years ago when the Chinese girls prevailed.

Men's team captain Samuel Estimo said the first round is scheduled at The Oval, the biggest playing venue ever for the Olympiad. The Oval is nearly double the size of a football field with the ceiling height varying between 12 and 18 meters.

"It's a big help that we were able to arrive here early for acclimatization purposes," said Caturla, a former head coach of Papua New Guinea, in Filipino.

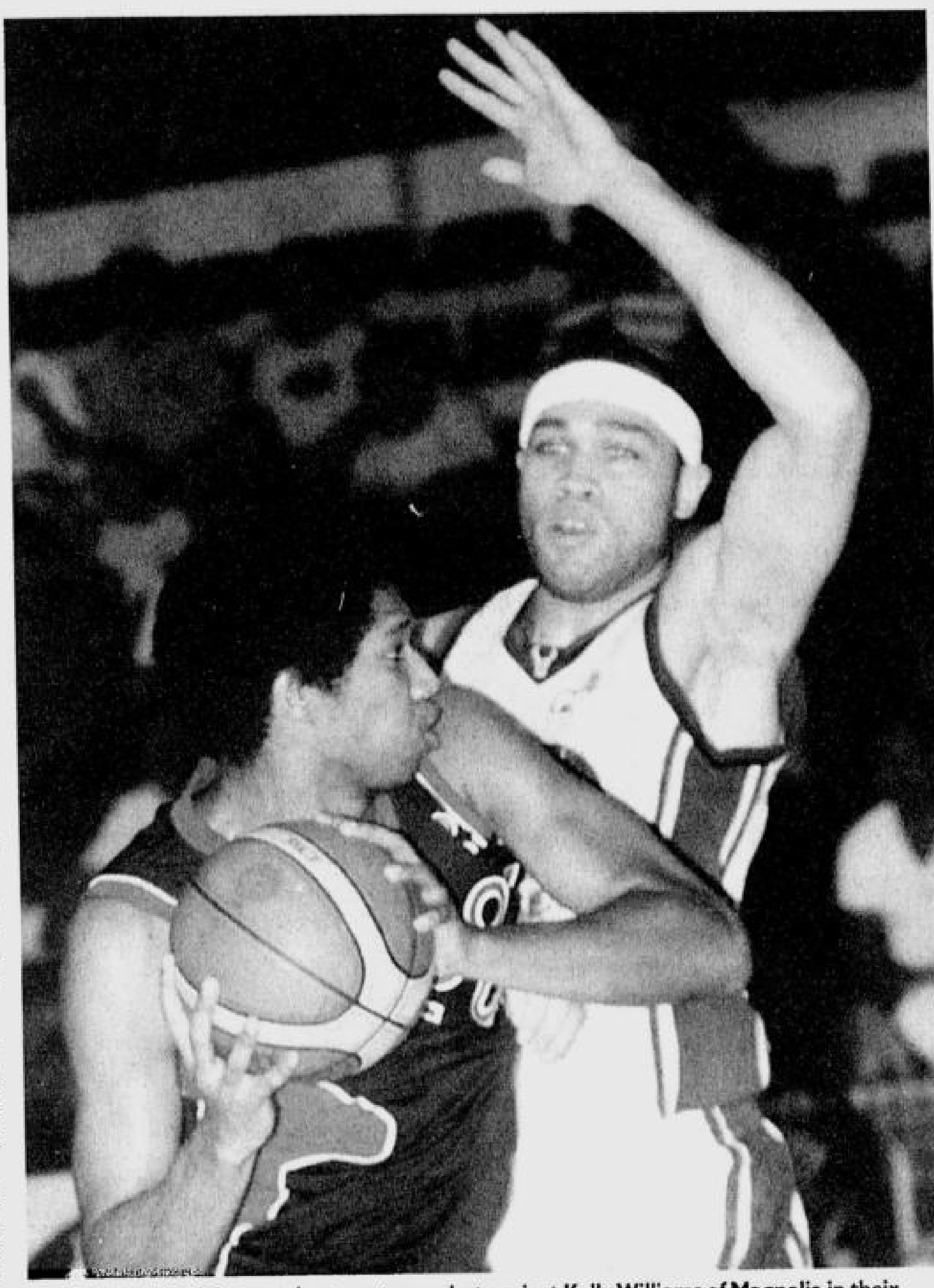
Despite encountering visa problems at the Italian embassy in Manila, NCFP spokesperson Dr. Jennifer Mayor said the team is looking forward to performing well.

Still with pending visas are Mayor, arbiter Wilfredo Abalos, journalist NM Almario Marlon Bernardino Jr., NM Roderick Nava, WNMs Shercila Cua, Kimberly Jane Cunanan and her mother Annabelle.

The Philippines celebrated its first Olympiad stint 50 years ago in Moscow with a victory by topping Group C ahead of stronger chess-playing countries.

*Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

# Painters claim twice-to-beat edge



**JOE DEVANCE of Toyota tries to put up a shot against Kelly Williams of Magnolia in their game last Wednesday. The Sparks defeated the Spinners, 89-85.** ERIK ARAZAS

**GAMES TUESDAY** (*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Rain or Shine
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Granny Goose

By Jasmine W. Payo

VETERANS MARVIN ORTIGUERRA AND JOJO Tangkay finally came through in the clutch to lead Rain or Shine to a 74-69 victory over Magnolia yesterday and secure a twice-to-beat quarterfinal privilege in the PBL Unity Cup.

Tangkay, last conference's Most Valuable Player, paced the Elasto Painters' balanced offense with 13 points, while Ortiguerra stepped up in the second half by drilling in eight of his 12 points at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

Coach Leo Austria felt relieved that the Painters, who occupied the fourth spot at 8-6, wrapped up the elimination round with a victory.

"There was complacency among the players," said Austria. "They think we're a strong team. But I reminded them that we can't become a strong team if we do not perform. Hard work, that's what was missing in our four losses."

Rain or Shine only needs to score one quarterfinal triumph over Magnolia, which settled for fifth place with a 6-8 card, to advance to the semifinal round.

Third-seeded Granny Goose, which claimed the other twice-to-beat incentive, will face Harbour Centre in the other quarterfinal pairing.

The Portmasters settled for sixth place at 6-8 after bowing to the Montaña Jewels, 95-84, in the first game.

League leaders Toyota Otis and Montaña already claimed outright semifinal seats, but the Jewels still came out firing behind Alex Compton to improve their record to 10-4.

"We need this win going into the semis," said Jewels coach Nel Parado.

Connecting from long range, the Painters dropped a 16-2 bomb to erase a 38-47 deficit and take a 54-49 lead late in the third period.

Tangkay, Ortiguerra and Ronjay Enrile knocked down key triples in the decisive run that pushed the Painters on top for good.

The advantage kept growing with Enrile, who shot all of his nine points in the second half, and Junjun Cabatu teaming up early in the fourth period for a 66-58 advantage.

Magnolia's Arwind Santos made it a one-point game, 68-67, after scoring seven of the Spinners' next eight points heading into the final 1:30.

Ortiguerra and Tangkay soon defused the Spinners' charge with back-to-back three-pointers to put the game in the bag for the Painters, 74-69, with only 14.6 seconds left.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**MONTAÑA 95**—Compton 16, Bono 15, Magpayo 15, Rodriguez 13, Vergara 8, Juntilla 8, Bagulon 7, Dela Cuesta 5, Bonus 4, Guerrero 2, Atablanco 2, Espiritu 0, Evangelista 0.

**HARBOUR CENTRE 84**—Lanete 13, Yeo 11, Arana 10, Reyes 9, Chia 7, Saguindel 6, Gamboa 6, Tenorio 5, Coching 5, Vicente 4, Alonzo 4, Gaco 2, Maierhofer 2.

**Quarters:** 16-20, 37-36, 70-63, 95-84

**Second Game**

**RAIN OR SHINE 74**—Tangkay 13, Ortiguerra 12, Reyes 11, Cabatu 10, Enrile 9, Eman 8, Malabanan 5, Sta. Maria 3, Yambao 0, Tan 0.

**MAGNOLIA 69**—Santos 20, Williams 13, Misolas 9, Rizada 8, Valenzuela 8, Chan 4, Co 3, Almeda 2, Isip 2, Barcellano 0, Jones 0, Te 0.

**Quarters:** 20-23, 35-40, 56-51, 74-69

# Spring Oil backs NBC Selection to Taiwan meet

SPRING COOKING OIL IS BACKING THE participation of the NBC North Selection in the Hua Lien Probation Basketball Championship on May 25-28 in Taiwan.

"I believe we have a good chance in the coming international event. Our board has formed the strongest team possible from among north division players," said NBC president and Spring Cooking Oil general manager Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

The North Selection will be composed of Bacchus/Harbour Centre's Magnum Membrere, Harold Sta. Cruz, Jayson Cuevas and Kenneth Coyukang, Batang Tagaytay's Niño Marquez, Spring Cooking Oil-Parañaque's Mar Reyes and Rodel Manuel, Laguna-Sta. Rosa's Val Domingo and Pangasinan's Reroma Menor.

Geremy Gerald Robinson will join the team to be coached by Bacchus/Harbour's Lawrence Chongson, Parañaque's Efren Garcia and Laguna-Sta. Rosa's Vic Sanchez.

NBC secretary general and team manager Patricio Pello heads the delegation, which flies to Taiwan on May 23.

The first foreign trip of NBC is also backed by Bacchus/Harbour Centre, Philippine Airlines, Pangasinan Amateur Basketball Association, NBC EVP and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Sta. Rosa Mayor Joey Katindig.

# Ozamiz fashions come-from-behind win vs Tagaytay

TAGAYTAY CITY—DEFENDING CHAMPION Ozamiz came from behind to nip Batang Tagaytay, 95-91, for its second straight road victory in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the international Convention Center here.

Marlon Basco produced another sterling all-around performance of 24 points, nine rebounds, two blocks and one assist to power Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz Cotta cagers to their seventh win in eight games. Tagaytay dropped to 5-4.

Ozamiz was trailing the Tagaytay squad of NBC executive vice president and Mayor Bambol Tolentino, 79-88, with 5:10 remaining when it mounted a rally to tie the count at 88.

MC Caceres completed a three-point play to give the lead back to Tagaytay with 43 seconds left, 91-88. But Billy Bansil's three-pointer, followed by Milfred Sampilo's basket proved to be the icing as Tagaytay failed to score in the ensuing plays in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring, Regent Foods, Spring Cooking Oil, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, May 21, 2006

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | | Ringside TV | | PBA | | | | | | | | | | Shall We Dance? | | Meet The Idols | | | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | Your Song | SCO Kids National Security | | | The Buzz | E Buzz | Samsung Sports World | | Goin' Bulilit | | Rated K<br>Mondo Magic | | TV Patrol World | Sharon | Pinoy Big Brother | Trip Na Trip | | | |
| AXN | | | | | | | | World Case Scenario | | Gamemax (Season II) | | Sports Disaster IV | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6) | | CSI: NY (Season 2) | | CSI: Miami (Season II) | |
| Cartoon Network | Powerpuff Girls | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | Tom & Jerry Show | Pet Alien | Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island | Camp Lazlo | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | The Simpsons | | Courage The Cowardly Dog | | | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | The Simpsons | | Battle B-Daman | Power Rangers Dino Thunder | Justice League Unlimited | Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021 |
| Cinema One | | | | Mano Po 3: My Love | | | | Muling Ibalik Ang Tamis Ng Pag-ibig | | | | Fidel | | | | Malena | | | |
| Cinemax | Greedy (2:40 PM) | | | | Sleepers (4:35 PM) | | | | | Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle Of Life | | | | Urban Legends: Bloody Mary | | | Torque | | |
| CNN | Next@CNN | World News | Main Sail | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | World News | World Sport | World News | Global Office | World News | World Sport | Talk Asia | Main Sail | World News | The Daily Show Jon Stewart | Late Edition Live | |
| Crime/Suspense | | Law & Order: Criminal Content | | Law & Order | | Law & Order: Criminal Content | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | | What Should You Do? | | Cold Case | | Law & Order: Criminal Content | | Surface | | Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice | |
| Discovery Channel | | How Do They Do It | | American Chopper | | Giant Of The Skies | | Mythbusters | | Hour Asia | | Hour China | | Cleopatra's Lost City | | Lost City Of Shang | | Power Zone | |
| Disney Channel | Lizzie Mcguire | Totally Spies-Double Episodes | | Brandy & Mr. Whiskers | Lilo & Stitch | Buzz on Maggie | Mr. Bean | Teacher's Pet (Movie) | | | Teacher's Pet (Movie) | | | Mr. Bean | America's Funniest Home Video | Kim Possible | Martin Mystery | Cinderella | |
| ESPN | | | | | | World Tenpin Masters '05 | | LPGA Golf Sybase Classic [illegible] Mercury NY, USA | | | | Motorsport Asia | Major League Baseball 2006 Yankees @ Mets | | | | | | NBA Anthology |
| ETC | | Saturday Night Live | | Rated Oh! 4 | Insider Weekend | American Dreams 3 | | One Tree Hill 3 | | America's Next Top Model 4 | | Queer Eye For The Straight Guy | | Project Runway | | Nip/Tuck 3 | | Rated Oh! 4 | Insider Weekend |
| ETC 2nd Avenue | | Blowout 2 | | Today Show - 1 Hour Version | | Dateline | | Cold Turkey | | NBC Nightly News | WSJR | The Biggest Loser | | The Director | | West Wing | | NBC Nightly News | Hollywood One On One |
| EWTN | Defending Life | Chaplet Of Mercy/Angelus | The Donut Man | Adventures In Odyssey | Rosary With Mother Angelica | Octavia Dias | Rome Reports | EWTN Global Showcase | | Onward Pilgrims | Images of Mary | Sunday Mass Live | | | The World Over Encore | | Life Is Worth Living | The Abundant Life | |
| Fox News | Fox News Watch | Fox Report Saturday | | Heartland With John Kasich | | Big Story Weekend Edition | | Beltway Boys | Fox News Watch | Fox & Friends Sunday | | | | | | Fox News Live | | | |
| GMA 7 | Gigsters | Love To Love | | S-Files | | | | Mahiwagang Baul | | Kakabaka-boo | | Mel & Joey | | All Star K | | Daddy Di Do Du | | Sunday Night Box Office | |
| Hallmark Channel | | | Sea People | | | | The Princess Stallion | | | Just Cause | | Child Of Our Time 2001 | | Trust | | | | | Trust |
| HBO | Sahara (2:45 PM) | | | | In Good Company | | | | New York Minute | | | Twelve Monkeys | | | | Seed Of Chucky (10:10PM) | | | Mary Reilly (11:35PM) |
| Hero TV | Machine Robo Rescue | Dear Boys | GPX Cyber Formula | Baki The Grappler | Zenki | Super Yoyo | Ragnarok | Musumet | The Slayers | Barom One | Babel II | Mars The Terminator | Hero TV Theatrix | Dragons | Fire & Ice | Machine Robo Rescue | Dear Boys | Zenki | Baki The Grappler |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | | | Home Shopping Network | | Home Shopping Network | | Legacy Of Hero | | Pinoy Action Hits | | | | Iyo Ang Katarungan | EL SHADDAI | | |
| JackTV | Everybody Hates Chris | Arrested Development | Always Sunny In Philadelphia | Family Guy | Jack Yard | Afterburn | | Smackdown | | | | Jack In The Box | | | | Trigger Happy TV | Dr. Katz | Comedy Central Presents | Premium Blend |
| Lifestyle Network | | Smart Solutions | Country Style | Your Private Island | Fine Living Special Homecoming | | Barefoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Wolfgang Puck | Food Network Special | | E! Entertainment Special | | Movie/Special/Mini Series | | | | Fashion Trance | |
| MTV Philippines | Ultrasound Gary V | MTV Hits | MTV News | MTV Hits | | Laguna Beach | | Pimp My Ride | | PunkD | | VH1's Shortest Celebrity Marriages | | VH1 Awesomely Overrated | | Summerbreak Sessions [illegible] | [illegible] | MTV Screen | Sessions Gary V |
| MYX | | Pinoy MYX Countdown | | | | Take 5 | MYX Bandarito | MYX News | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Presents | | | MYX Hit Chart | | | MYX Backtrax | MYXLOG |
| National Geographic | | Planet Football World Cup Class #3 | Planet Football World Cup Class #4 | Explorations Powered By Duracell | Rough Trades | Best of the Week: The Kung Fu Warriors of Wudang | | Planet Football World Cup Class #5 | Planet Football World Cup Class #6 | Explorations Powered By Duracell | Rough Trades | MegaStructures: [illegible] City Of Gold | | Best of the Week: [illegible] | | Nat Geo Investigates: Air Crash Investigation | | Nat Geo Investigates: [illegible] | |
| NBN | | Tara na Bayan [illegible] | | | | | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | Congress in Action | | Community Barangay League | | The Sports List | | Pilipinas Ngayon Na | | The Working President | Special Events From [illegible] |
| Nickelodeon | Drake & Josh | SpongeBob SquarePants | Trollz | The Fairly Odd Parents | Catscratch | Avatar Legend Of Aang | Danny Phantom | Zoey 101 | Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide | Dark Oracle | Unfabulous | SpongeBob SquarePants | The Fairly Odd Parents | As Told By Ginger | Girls In Love | The Brothers Garcia | The Amanda Show | My Dad The Rock Star | Fight Night 5 |
| PBO | | | Ang Syota Kong Balikbayan | | | | Kakampi Ko Ang Diyos | | | | The Best Of Sharon And Gabby | | | | Freestyle Acrobatics | | | Groupee TV | |
| Qtv | | Lois And Clark | | Kaleido Star | | Bongga Ka Star | | Ang Pinaka | | Pop Star Kids | | May Trabaho Ka | | Sunday Super Sine | | | | | The Working President |
| RPN 9 | | Golf Power | Fistorama | | Global Window | WWE Smackdown | | JAG | | Navy NCIS | | Without A Trace | | NBA On RPN | | | | | |
| SBN 21 | | | | Buhay Pinoy | | Shepherd's Voice | | New Life | | | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Gabay At Akayan | | | |
| Solar Sports | | | | GWS 20-2006 | | Live Match '06 | | | | Boxing: Ivan Hernandez vs. Miguel Tellez | | | | | Boxing: Marco Antonio Barrera vs. Rocky Juarez | | | | |
| Sports Plus | | | | Motoring Today | | Rookie Manual | Nippi Tunervision 12 | Big Game Poker Challenge | | | | [illegible] | | | Raceworld | | Bank of America Colonial Day 3 | | |
| Star Movies | | | Out Of Time | | | Deep Rising (5:15 PM) | | | | Taxi (6:50 PM) | | | Opening Night | The Clearing | | | The Village (10:35PM) | | |
| Star World | | Scrubs | Arrested Development | North Shore | | Business Week Asia | Travel Asia | Smallville/The Apprentice (Bonus 4) | | Malcolm In The Middle | The Simpsons | Oprah Prime Time | | The Scholar | | Coupling | | Malcolm In The Middle | Oprah Prime Time |
| Studio 23 | | | | PBL Unity Cup Game 2 | | Exposed | | | | | Y Speak Live | | US Girls | Desperate Housewives | | Dental Tour (10:15PM) | Tru Calling (10:45PM) | | Angel |

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

# Archery head coach cleared by NAAP panel

VETERAN ARCHERY HEAD COACH HENRY Manalang has been cleared of various charges, ranging from sexual harassment to name-calling, shouting, favoritism and bias in selecting members of the national team by a three-man archery association (NAAP) investigating panel.

The panel composed of chair Dr. PR Nanagas, Magalang (Pampanga) Councilor Renato R. Bartolome and Cebu businessman Siegfredo Velasquez dismissed by a majority decision the complaints filed by athletes against Manalang, a two-time Olympic mentor, in its report submitted April 22, 2006.

Velasquez concurred with all observations, findings, conclusions and recommendations of Bartolome, but added some other comments.

While he agreed with Bartolome on several aspects of the case, including clearing Manalang from sexual harassment charges, Dr. Nanagas said he was hesitant to relieve the coach of any blame on some of the other complaints against him.

"I would not go as far as to 'exonerate' Coach Manalang but only to state that there is insufficient incontrovertible proof of wrongdoing," Dr. Nanagas said.

Bartolome took to task allegations of sexual harassment, which he said was a non-issue. "Such matter is actually never an issue as main complainant, Ms Purita Joy Marino, herself has never mentioned it in her complaint to the NAAP president (Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner) dated Sept. 12, 2005, nor in her resignation letter. No other complaint of this nature was brought by her to NAAP's attention," he explained.

He added that was also not an issue in the case of Olympian Jasmin Figueroa, who had an affidavit denying that she and Manalang have a relationship other than as coach-athlete.

# Pacquiao upstages Larios

## Draws big cheer for backing Clippers

PACQUIAO: PR man

**MANNY PACQUIAO IS NOT ONLY A world-class boxer, but also a world champion public relations man, too.**

This, he proved without a doubt yesterday.

Upon entering the Bonaventure Hotel for his second meeting with the press together with Mexico's Oscar Larios, Pacquiao's opening salvo was 'Go Clippers,' which drew a big cheer from the press people, most of whom come from the Los Angeles area, home of both the Clippers and the Lakers.

What broke the house down was when the Filipino admitted to have "won a bet and a fistful of dollars" for the Clippers' 118-106 win over the Phoenix Suns the night before the presscon.

On Nov. 15, 2003, when he went up the ring at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, for his fight against Marco Antonio Barrera, he was wearing the jersey of the San Antonio Spurs that sent the predominantly Mexican crowd disarmed by Pacman.

Pacquiao went on to TKO the Mexican Barrera in the 11th round.

Pacman refused to predict if he would knock out Larios when they clash at the Araneta Coliseum on July 2. Billed as "Mano-a-Mano," the fight will be televised live on pay-per-view in the United States.

Meanwhile, Larios was not upset his Filipino opponent got all the attention during the press conference.

"After the fight, I know the attention will be mine," said Larios.

Larios said he will remain calm until July as "an antidote that will allow me to resist the 'poison' that is Pacquiao."

Mexican manager Rafael Mendoza said Larios flies back tomorrow to Mexico, where he will stay for two more weeks before flying to Tokyo where he wants to acclimatize for the weather in Manila.

# Thai reinforcement powers Lady Stags

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

THAI REINFORCEMENT BOULEE Jalernsri imposed her superiority as San Sebastian College drubbed University of the East, 25-21, 25-19, 25-23, last night to secure one of the semifinals berths in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The 5-foot-10 Jalernsri, one of the Thais tapped to spice up the tournament, led the offensive for the Lady Stags, making 25 kills out of her 30 points.

SSC bettered its win-loss record to 4-3 and completed the cast for the double-round semifinals.

De La Salle, Adamson and Far Eastern University earlier made it to the next round.

In the second game, Lyceum scored a 28-26, 14-25, 25-18, 25-14 upset over Philippine Christian University to stay alive for a semis berth. The Lady Pirates improved to 3-3, while the Lady Dolphins fell to 3-4.

Already out of the running, UE still waged a gallant fight through team skipper Suzanne Roces whose never-say-die play allowed the Lady Warriors to make one final stand in the last set.

But the Lady Stags held their ground and the Lady Warriors fell to their seventh loss in as many games.

With practically all the plays woven around the Thai import, Jalernsri didn't disappoint, even adding three service winners and spearheading the defense with two blocks.

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**TRIBUTE TO TEAMWORK:** Members of the Cossack Vodka team display the P500,000 first-place cheque during the awards ceremonies of the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006 Friday. Joining them are Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li (extreme left), Tanduay VP for marketing Andres Co (extreme right) and Air21 president Bert Lina (second from right). Renato Dolosa was the team's coach. This marks the first time in four years since Tanduay has been the Tour's major presentor that its team won the team side of the event.

# The Sunbolt Kid reprises history

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

THE POOR CHOOSES A SPORT FOR THE money, the rich for hobby.

The cyclist is poor, the polo player is rich.

In his first cycling marathon in 1996—the fabled "OO Races" in Pangasinan—Santy Barnachea finished 10th in a field of 70.

Not bad.

You were just 20. The country's top guns were in your face.

Never mind that the prize money was a mere pittance.

You were single, just three years into your sport, so you whooped it up.

A life in the lane beckoned.

It won't be long when you hit the jackpot.

The cyclones of cycling, at least in this country, are mostly mainly high school alumni. To them, chasing college degrees is like chasing the wind. As always, poverty has been the culprit.

The son of a farmer from Brgy. Esperanza, Umingan, Pangasinan, Barnachea would latch on to the curse of the chain that afflicts mostly Pangasinenses after high school.

It is a lovable affliction to those born to it, Pangasinan being the cradle of the cycling marathon since the late Geruncio Lacuesta of Bayambang, Pangasinan, founded the 1955 Manila-Vigan run, the forerunner of the fabled Tour of Luzon.

With the legendary Jesus A. Garcia Jr., as his idol, Sunbolt Kid Barnachea, the fourth in a brood of five produced by the union of Santiago and Virginia, would catapult himself from that decent 1996 debut to a shining fourth in the 1998 Marlboro Tour won by Warren Davadilla.

In that farewell gig of the Marlboro Tour, Barnachea virtually pitted pedal prowess with the best from Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and even Mainland China.

He finished fourth, yes, but to many, an heir was born to the throne once occupied by 19 Pangasinenses that included, among others, Gabot, Eden (rest in peace), De Guzman, Recodos, Rimarim (R.I.P.), Etrata, the Carinos and the Bonzos, Sicam (R.I.P.), Calip, Quirimit and, yes, the pride of Mangaldan, biking Jess Garcia.

Barnachea would next win the one-day Manila-Baguio event put up by Smart in 2000 and the 4-day Calabarzon road race put up by Air 21 in 2002.

And now this: A victory only two days ago in the Padyak Pinoy, coming 10 years after his OO win in Lingayen put up by then Pangasinan Gov. Oscar Orbos.

In winning, Barnachea reprised his idol's victory in the Picca Tour when Garcia also prevailed in that 1977 bikathon without a single stage win.

The first to record that was Gonzalo Recodos of Laoac, Pangasinan, in the 1963 Tour of Luzon.

Essentially, Barnachea won it this year by placing second, third and second again in the Tour's first three stages.

The third stage saw him grab the overall lead. The fourth saw him unleash a master's stroke, fortifying his leadership en route to a no-look back trip to victory.

In the third, Barnachea finished solo second in the strength-sapping, 199-km Baguio climb just 41 seconds behind winner Frederick Feliciano.

But more importantly, Barnachea, 5-foot-8, dislodged first-stage winner Ericson Obosa, hobbling home badly in the run, from the top.

The next day, Barnachea, displaying eagle eyes, virtually wrapped it up with a strong finish in the fourth stage ending in Angeles City.

With said stage only 50 kms old, Barnachea, pacing the field, pumped it on beyond recall when he saw Feliciano and Obosa, both positioned at the back of the lead pack, asking for water.

"I saw them raise their water canteens, which meant they needed a drink," Barnachea said in Filipino. "Since I was too far from them and confident I was out of their sight, I instigated a breakaway."

His hunch proving to be true, the furious breakaway pace he and Arnel Quirimit had alternately nursed made them finish the 150-km run some 8 stunning minutes ahead of Feliciano and Obosa.

Barnachea allowed Quirimit to pocket his second stage victory, contenting himself with a 6th-place finish.

His generosity rewarded him with a solid 7:58-minute margin over Feliciano and 7:29 over Obosa with 4 days left in the 8-day Tour.

And even as Barnachea, avoiding hurtling into a ravine in what could have been a tragedy in Mabitac, slowed it down the next day in the race to Lucena—allowing Feliciano to close in at 4:07—the Sunbolt skipper would proceed to stash away the crown in the 50th year of the Tour with plenty to spare.

Barnachea, born the same year that Modesto Bonzo of Sual, Pangasinan, won the Tour in 1976, simply stuck to his main rivals the last three days from Lucena to win the Tanduay-backed event, making him richer by more than a hundred thousand bucks.

Richer?

Not really.

His prize is peanuts if ranged against what our other athletes earn. For example, our PBA stars rake in an average of nearly P150,000 a month.

Next month (June 18), Barnachea will probably spend more than half of his earnings when he marries Michelle, the sister of cycling's foremost speedster Enrique Domingo of San Carlos City (Pangasinan).

After that, it's back to the barracks for Barnachea, a Navy private since 2001.

A biker in summer, soldier the rest of the year.

If winning the Tour was a jackpot to Barnachea, no argument there.

Most times, the poor is the easiest to please.

***

*Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net*

# Ateneo golfers get back at La Salle

ATENEO SCORED HEAVILY IN THE top divisions highlighted by a decisive sweep of Class A action to turn back La Salle in the recent La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic at the North and South courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Blue outscored the Green in four of the eight categories but an 11-0 result in Class A orchestrated by Alfonso Gillego, Katrina Gonzales, Moshe Baldo and Juan Miguel Garcia, who took the top four positions, and a 10-1 count in Class B decided the outcome of the dual meet between the two rivals.

Ateneo also topped the championship division via an 8-3 count, and Class C (3-2.5), on the way to nailing a 38.5-27.5 victory that evened a best-of-three series sponsored by PLDT and Smart Communications at one match apiece after last year's victory by La Salle.

The new format put more weight in the top three divisions which had a 5-3-2-1 point system against the 2.5-1.5-1-.5 of the lower five.

The tourney which had ABS-CBN, Citisec Online, Consolidated Distillers/Carlos Rossi, Directories Philippines Corporation, ICAP Philippines, Inc., Filpride Resources, Inc., Nation Petroleum Corporation and Pisanti, was participated in by 280 players from both sides. Turf Company staked a Club Car for a hole-in-one that nobody won.

Anthony Fernando added to the Ateneo celebration when he ruled the championship class with a 2-under-par gross of 70 at the North course, edging La Salle's Hanson So by one and teammates Louie Dacudao and Jeric Hechanova by two.

# Alcantara leads Head Penn tennis cast

ASIA'S TOP JUNIOR FRANCIS CASEY Alcantara leads more than 450 players seeing action in the final leg of the 2006 Head Penn Tennis Tour which kicks off today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Alcantara, ranked No. 1 in the Asian Tennis Federation 14-under division, is seeded sixth in the 18-under class behind Pablo Olivarez II, Joshua Tan Ho, Ralph Kevin Barte, Russell Arcilla Jr. and El Santo Santos.

Olivarez, Tan Ho, Barte and Arcilla are all members of the national junior team while Davao City-based Santos won the 18-under and 16-under titles two days ago in Baguio City.

"I'll do my best. it will be tough playing against the best 18-under players in the country," said Alcantara.

In the girls' division, Dumaguete City's Macy Solon is eyeing her eighth title in the event organized by Dynamic Sports Corporation, the exclusive distributor of HEAD and Penn rackets. Solon won in Davao, General Santos, Dumaguete, Liloan, Cebu and Baguio.

# Lee rules 1st MercedesTrophy tourney

BUSINESSMAN-TRADER LEE GIL-HO survived the wind-swept Makiling course to rule the Class A division championship of the MercedesTrophy Philippines 2006 held at the posh Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna recently.

A long time resident in the country, the seven-handicapper Lee sizzled with a net even par 72 for an impressive 36 points under the Stableford system in the initial staging of the tournament organized by CATS Motors Inc. and co-presented by Cathay Pacific Airways and Smart Infinity.

Lee will lead the three-man RP Team to the MercedesTrophy Regional Asian Final set in Queensland, Australia this August. "I'm very happy with this win and looking forward to my trip in Australia," he said.

Joining him in the squad are Mactel Corp. president Emmanuel Te and Sarabia Optical president Freddie Sarabia, who topped their respective divisions.

Te won the Class B crown pulling away after shooting a day-best 44 points while Sarabia captured the Class C tiara with his 38 in the event also sponsored by Arrow Shirts, Lucerne, and Sta. Elena Village. Canon, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Johnnie Walker and Rustan's were donors.

CATS Motors chair Gregorio T. Yu said Lee, Te and Sarabia have a fighting chance of bagging a win in the Regional Asian Final. "Bring home the trophy, gentlemen," he said during the awarding ceremony.

In the event that any of the champions is unable to join the Australian trip, the three division runners-up—Pablo Soon (Class A), Raoul Angangco (Class B) and Victorio Chua (Class C)—will take their spot in the team.

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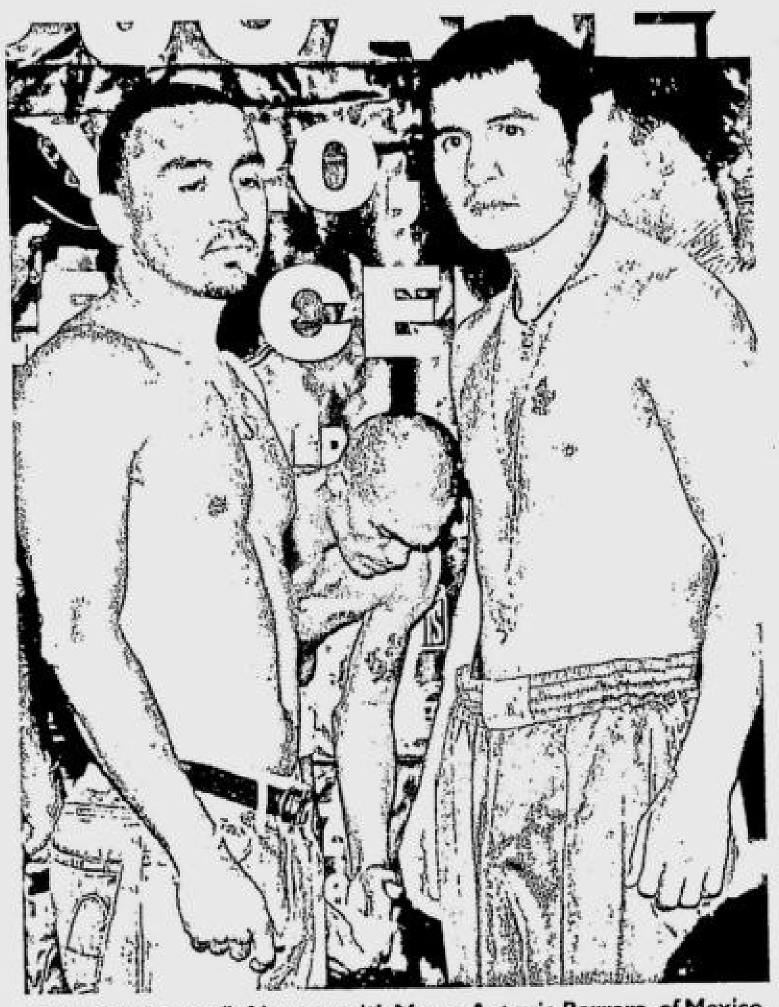
# Barrera defends crown

**LOS ANGELES—Mexican veteran Marco Antonio Barrera will defend his World Boxing Council super featherweight crown here Saturday against American challenger Rocky Juarez.**



RICARDO Juarez (left) poses with Marco Antonio Barrera, of Mexico, at their weigh-in, Friday for their WBC world super featherweight championship bout in Los Angeles. AP

"I know Rocky very well and I know he is a very good boxer, with a hard punch," Barrera told Fightnews.com. "Surely, it will be an interesting fight for the fans, with many toe-to-toe exchanges. And this is the best thing I do."

Barrera, 32, has spent more than half his life in the pro boxing ranks, compiling a 61-4 record with 42 knockouts that includes world titles in three weight classes. He turned pro at age 15 in 1989.

He told Fightnews that he did not have a hand in his choice of opponent.

"I do not pick my opponents, my people do," he said. "But I like Rocky's style, he is a terrific fighter."

It's the 23rd title fight for Barrera, his first title defense since beating rival champion Robbie Peden of Australia in a 12-round decision last September.

He was supposed to face Jesus Chavez but that was canceled. Barrera, however, also told Fightnews.com that he still went on with his usual preparations despite the change of opponent.

"Maybe nothing changed, because I never stopped my training," said the one-time Manny Pacquiao victim. "We worked at 3,200 meters over sea level and we are in excellent form. Maybe the only change was in my menu. (He laughs.) Now I must weight 130 pounds and not 135."

Juarez, 26, is 25-1 with 18 knockouts. The Houston-based fight suffered his lone loss in a unanimous 12-round decision last August to Mexican Humberto Soto.

Japan's Chikashi Inada, 19-2 with 14 knockouts, will face Mexico's Jose Santa Cruz for the WBC interim lightweight title in an undercard bout.

The match represents Barrera's foray into the super featherweight ranks, although he hasn't closed his doors on fighting in other weight classes as well.

"With Chavez, the opportunity was presented and we took it," Barrera told Fightnews. "But he had an injury, those types of things happen, and we resolved to still fight in the 130 pounds division. If another fight appears in the lightweight division, maybe I would take it."

The match could also be among the last the Mexican legend will have in his career.

"We talked with [promoter] Oscar [De La Hoya] about seven more fights," Barrera explained. "No more than that. But again, God has the last word."

And he is confident that he will conquer Juarez on fight night.

"I will win. I have no doubts about that. But I don't like to anticipate how. By points or by knockout, but I will triumph on Saturday." *AFP, with reports from Fightnews.com*

# Prison sentence completes fall of showboat 'Prince'

PARIS—AS "PRINCE" NASEEM Hamed was led away by two security guards to begin a 15-month prison sentence, the fall from grace of one of Britain's most talented and flamboyant boxers was complete.

Hamed was once the most exciting young fighter to come out of the United Kingdom, possibly even in the whole world.

HAMED AFP

For such a small man he had devastating punching power, incredible balance, lightning reactions and an acute sense for boxing showmanship.

With his swagger came an enormous adolescent arrogance and boasts that he would win world titles at five different weights, retire unbeaten and become a legend.

He was well on the way to fulfilling those prophecies until one sobering night in 2001 when Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera delivered the cocky Sheffield fighter a boxing lesson and so exploded the myth.

Hamed would fight only once more, almost a year later, and was booed from the ring by his own fans for an insipid display.

With his aura blown away and his cocky arrogance shattered, Hamed never recovered. On Friday he hit rock bottom as he was jailed for dangerous driving.

But Hamed is not the first nor the last champion to fall from great heights into an ignominious and disgraceful decline.

Most famous of all is "Iron" Mike Tyson, once the youngest ever undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. But just over three years after pummeling Trevor Berbick into submission to claim the heavyweight title aged 20, his invincibility was blown away by James "Buster" Douglas.

He was then later jailed for three and a half years for rape and went on to spend time behind bars again for assaulting two motorists in a road rage incident.

Tyson also bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in the ring, bit Lennox Lewis' leg in a press conference melee and threatened to eat the children that Lewis has never even fathered.

But the final humiliation came for Tyson in his last two fights where he lost to Danny Williams and Kevin McBride, fighters who would not have lasted even a full round against Tyson in his prime, before retiring because he did not want to "disgrace" the sport any more.

Before Tyson there was Sonny Liston, a feared fighter in the 1950s and 1960s with equally bruising punching power.

Liston also spent two spells behind bars, once for beating up a policeman, but his fearsome reputation was exposed in 1964 by a youthful Cassius Clay, later to become Muhammad Ali.

Liston retired on his stool with a dislocated shoulder at the end of the sixth round and was then knocked out in the first in a rematch a year later.

His career was dogged by rumors of links to the Mafia. *AFP*

# Bautista fights in Marco undercard

REY "BOOM BOOM" BAUTISTA, THE EXPLOSIVE fighter from Bohol, sees action today against Nicaraguan Roberto Bonilla in the undercard of the Marco Antonio Barrera-Rocky Juarez bout at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

The bout will be aired starting at 10 a.m. today simulcast over Solar Sports and RPN-9.

If victorious, Bautista will fight in the undercard of Oscar De la Hoya's farewell fight against undefeated pound-for-pound No. 1 boxer Floyd Mayweather in September.

At a press conference held the other day by Golden Boy Promotion and Pex Aves for the Filipino press at Max's Restaurant, it was announced that the Golden Boy Promotions had given Bautista a $5,000 bonus, in addition to his $10,000 purse, owing to his performance at the press conference and good ticket sales.

The Bautista-Bonilla showdown takes place just before the chief supporting bout featuring WBO super featherweight champ Jorge Barrios defending his title against Hungarian Janos Nagy.

Bautista (19-0, 14 KOs), the 19-year-old prodigy from Candijay, Bohol, will be staking his reputation against the 31-year-old Bonilla (22-7, 13 KOs) in a 10-round bout. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

# Barbaro leaves home ready for Preakness

KENTUCKY winner Barbaro is unloaded in preparation for the Preakness Stakes. AFP

BALTIMORE—BARBARO IS FINISHED playing around at his country home in the Maryland hills.

The unbeaten Kentucky Derby winner jogged early Friday at the tranquil Fair Hill Training Center before he was shipped by van for the one-hour trip to Pimlico to get back to business.

As the colt walked down the ramp into the traditional winner's stall, No. 40, trainer Michael Matz was certain Barbaro was ready for his next task: A victory in Saturday's $1 million Preakness Stakes and then an attempt at what 10 horses have tried and failed to do since Affirmed in 1978—become a US Triple Crown champion.

"I would love him to win the Preakness and go on," Matz said outside his barn at Fair Hill. "But first we've got this job in front of us."

There have been many Triple Crown close calls in the past decade, with six horses winning the first two legs in the last nine years. The closest came in 1998, when Real Quiet was nosed out at the wire in the Belmont Stakes, the final jewel in US thoroughbred racing's crowning achievement. The most recent bid was a heartbreaker, too, when Smarty Jones was caught in the final 70 yards.

On the eve of the 131st Preakness, Barbaro has racing fans on edge. For weeks, Matz has been saying his strapping 3-year-old bay colt has the "ability, heart and the desire to win—and he's undefeated."

Assistant trainer Peter Brette, who exercises the horse every morning, is even more succinct. Asked what it feels like to be aboard, the Englishman says simply, "like a Rolls Royce."

Barbaro was bred to be a top-of-the-line model. His stamina was provided by his sire, Dynaformer, his speed by his dam, La Ville Rouge. Barbaro's versatility as a turf and dirt star show up throughout his pedigree, and he's shown he doesn't mind running in the slop.

Most impressive, though, was the way he pulled off to win by 6½ lengths at Churchill Downs two weeks ago. That convinced most of his Derby rivals not to bother showing up at Pimlico. The margin of victory was the largest since Triple Crown winner Assault won by eight lengths 60 years ago, and jockey Edgar Prado didn't even use his whip in the stretch.

Put it all together, and a nine-horse field has just two Derby contenders back for another shot, with Brother Derek and Sweetnorthernsaint seeking a smoother ride than they got in a 20-horse field at the Derby. *AP*

MARTINA Hingis of Switzerland points the exit to Flavia Pennetta. AFP

# Hingis sets semis date vs Williams

ROME—FORMER CHAMPIONS VENUS WILliams and Martina Hingis will battle for a spot in another Italian Open final.

Williams, who beat Hingis en route to the 1999 championship, defeated Jelena Jankovic of Serbia-Montenegro, 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, on Friday to reach her first tour semifinals since last July.

Hingis, who downed Williams in the 1998 final at Foro Italico, stopped Flavia Pennetta, 6-3, 6-1, and ended Italian hopes of a first home champ since 1985.

Saturday's other semifinal will be an all-Russian affair between Svetlana Kuznetsova and Dinara Safina.

Williams and Hingis met only two weeks ago in Warsaw, where Williams came back from a set and a break down to even their matchups at 10-10. With Hingis having come out of retirement, it was their first clash in four years.

"It's always a great experience playing her," Hingis said. "We've had so many great matches over the years. Hopefully we'll have another one here." *AP*

# Splendido Golf slated May 27

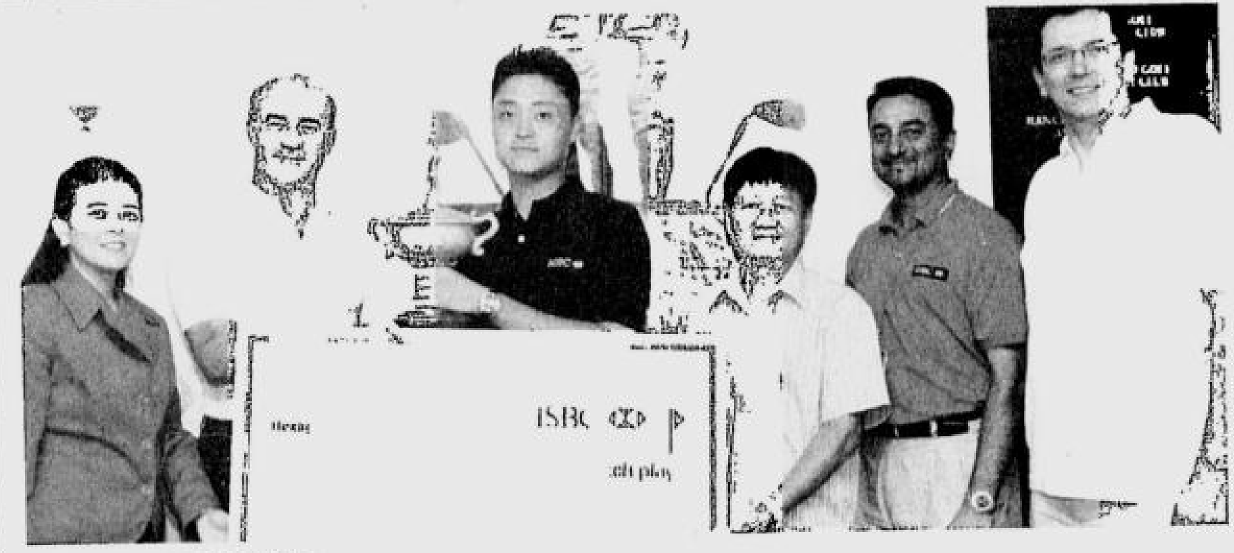
THE SPLENDIDO TAAL GOLF CORP. WILL host an exclusive event for its members dubbed as The 2006 Splendido Taal Invitational Golf Tournament on Saturday, May 27.

The 18-hole event expects a field 140-200 participants. The system-36 format will be used with entries classified into four divisions-Class A, B, C and D.

The classification will be determined by the gross scores. There will be a special divisions for the senior and lady participants. Champions and runners-up shall be awarded per class.

Tee-off schedule is from 6 to 9 a.m., with flight assignments to be determined prior to the event.

Splendido members who wish to join the tournament may call Mike Cedo, Splendido's general manager and golf director at 09209380819.



**CHAMP OF CHAMPS**

Korean expat Park Jong-soo (third from left) receives his trophy and symbolic ticket to the HSBC world match play in England after winning the men's division of the National Tournament of Club Champions presented by HSBC and INQUIRER Golf at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. Handing Park his prizes are, from left, PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, HSBC CEO and president Warner Manning and Eagle Ridge Project Director Wini Gob, HSBC SVP-Marketing Suresh Nanoo and HSBC Deputy CEO and Head of PFS Martin Cook.

## RACING

### BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Real Triomphe (3), Golden Lance (6), Quant Je Puis (1), Shaolin (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Morning Nell (4), Fair Urduja (2), Formidable Jaeda (9), Letshaveaparty (6), Dancing Slow (7)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Lucas (1), Reporter (3), Paminsanminsan (4), Palikim (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Look Of Love (1), Kaligatan (10), Parrot Moe (7), Yoshwara (6), Drink N Drink (8)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (5), Cognac Monnet (6), Tout Est Grace (2), Angel Of Light (1)
Race 6—Nothing Impossible (3), Renzie Stays (2), Cara Dura/Balang Westside (9), Hakuna Matata (8), Manila's Style (4)
Race 7—(Tri)—Heroics/Badge Of Honor (1), Bellin Bellin (2), Slatkis (3)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Best Strike (1), Bunker Buster (8), Idol (3), Stradivarius (2), Interceptor (2)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Crystal City (4), Ilocs Pride (5), War Bird (10), Rockwell (1), Lucky Joe (9)
Race 10—Truly Impressive (4), My Lady Hannah (8), Miss Vicky (6), Dynamic Jason (7), Perfect Time (5)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Lady Cathy/He's A Balong (5), Mesmerize (1), Seven Lakes (3), Long Hitter (6)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lady Tycoon (3), Graceful Ann (1), Silver Cho Cho (2), Hurry Prince (8), Modern Classic (4)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—My Rabbonnie (14), Western Legend (1), Simply Gold (10), Red Storm (13), Classic Royale (7), Distinctive Dancer (3)

WORLD CUP

# England striker Owen calm—and a touch arrogant

LONDON—MICHAEL OWEN IS CALM, assured and just a touch arrogant when it comes to scoring goals. So it is not difficult to believe him when he says England's World Cup hopes are safe in his hands.

With Wayne Rooney still suffering from a broken foot, England's chance of success in Germany could wrest on Owen's ability to hit the net. But it is not a responsibility that fazes him.

After 35 goals in 75 appearances for his country the Newcastle striker is 100 percent confident he can do the job, despite missing two-thirds of the season with injury himself.

He said: "I think I've played 20 games this year between club and country—that's probably 20 fewer than being perfect if you're talking about preparing for the World Cup.

"The pressure certainly doesn't really affect the way I play. If anyone plays for England on a regular basis and for top Premiership teams—the likes of Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal—you've got to be able to handle pressure.

It's not difficult to work out where Owen's self-belief comes from because at the age of 26 he is already on his way to becoming one of England's greatest scorers.

"I've achieved a lot in the game already and I suppose good experiences are a good thing," he said.

"The first time I ever played in the World Cup I scored, the first time I played in a football match I scored, the first time I played for Liverpool I scored. If you do it first time, it's not a confidence thing, it's something deep within you that you know you can do it." *AFP*

VEGAS 9-BALL

# 'Bata' settles for third

**EFREN "BATA" REYES OF THE Philippines lost to German ace Ralf Souquet, 7-6, in their return match in the loser's bracket to finish third in the 64-man, $160,000 2006 Enjoypool.com 9-Ball Championship (formerly BCA Open) at the Riviera Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

The 51-year-old Reyes also lost to Souquet, 11-9, in the fifth round and got a second shot at the German after trouncing fellow Filipino Jose "Amang" Parica, 11-3, and American Charlie Williams, 11-6.

Third place was worth $5,500 (around P277,000) for Reyes, whose benefactors include billiards patron Putch Puyat and BSCP president Ernie Fajardo.

Souquet, on the other hand, won five straight matches, counting that first victory over Reyes, before their return match.

He, however, yielded to American Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer, last year's second placer, in the title match, 11-8.

Other Filipinos who campaigned in the tough event were Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, Santos Sambajon and Dennis "Surigao" Orcollo.

In the distaff side, Jasmin Ouschan edged Helena Thornfeldt, 7-6, to arrange a titular showdown with undefeated Allison Fisher. The champions win $20,000 each. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

**EFREN "Bata" Reyes' takes home $5,500.** PDI PHOTO

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# Gallego joins Asian 9-Ball Bangkok leg

VETERAN INTERNATIONALIST RAMIL GALLEGO will join forces with Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and "Marvelous" Marlon Manalo in the Bangkok leg of the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour slated June 2-4.

Gallego, winner of two big events in Japan recently, topped the qualifying tournament conducted by Puyat Sports to earn the slot originally allotted for Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan.

Pagulayan, the 2004 World Pool champion, begged off from the Bangkok meet due to prior commitments.

In the eliminations held at the Bowling Inn along Taft Avenue, Gallego beat Panfilo Damuag, 11-7, to clinch the berth. Among the other noted local cue artists who took part in the event were Ronnie Alcano, Lee Vann Corteza, Antonio Gabica, Victor Arpilleda, Roberto Gomez and Jeffrey de Luna.

Other cue stars like Gandy Valle and Denis Orcollo did not take part as they are currently campaigning in the United States.

"Ramil (Gallego) is a tested campaigner. Together with Efren, Django and Marlon, our chances in the Bangkok stop of the Asian 9-Ball Tour will be boosted," said Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, local billiards chief patron and president of Puyat Sports.

Reyes won the recent Ho Chi Minh City leg via an 11-6 win over China's Li He Wen in the final.

## SPORTSWATCH

### All set for Palaui aquathlon

THE PALAUI ISLAND AQUATHLON CHALLENGE GETS going this May 27. The race is the second leg of the Speedo Aquathlon Series 2006 and is presented by the local government of Cagayan headed by Gov. Edgar Ramones Lara, municipality of Sta. Ana with Mayor Norberto Rodriguez, and the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (Ceza) headed by Jose Mari Ponce. For details, call 0927-3693558, 0919-4339844 or 0917-5783616.

### PCSO beach volleyball on

THE PCSO WOMEN'S INTER-COLLEGIATE BEACH Volleyball Challenge reels off today with 21 teams from eight schools competing at the Cantada Sports Center court in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. Leading the star-studded field in the event with Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office as title sponsor is the College of St. Benilde with six teams led by Faith de Guzman and Erin Canoy. The matches will be aired nationwide via Golf Power Plus on RPN-9 every Sunday starting at 3 p.m. and worldwide twice weekly through The Filipino Channel.

### Youth program a hit

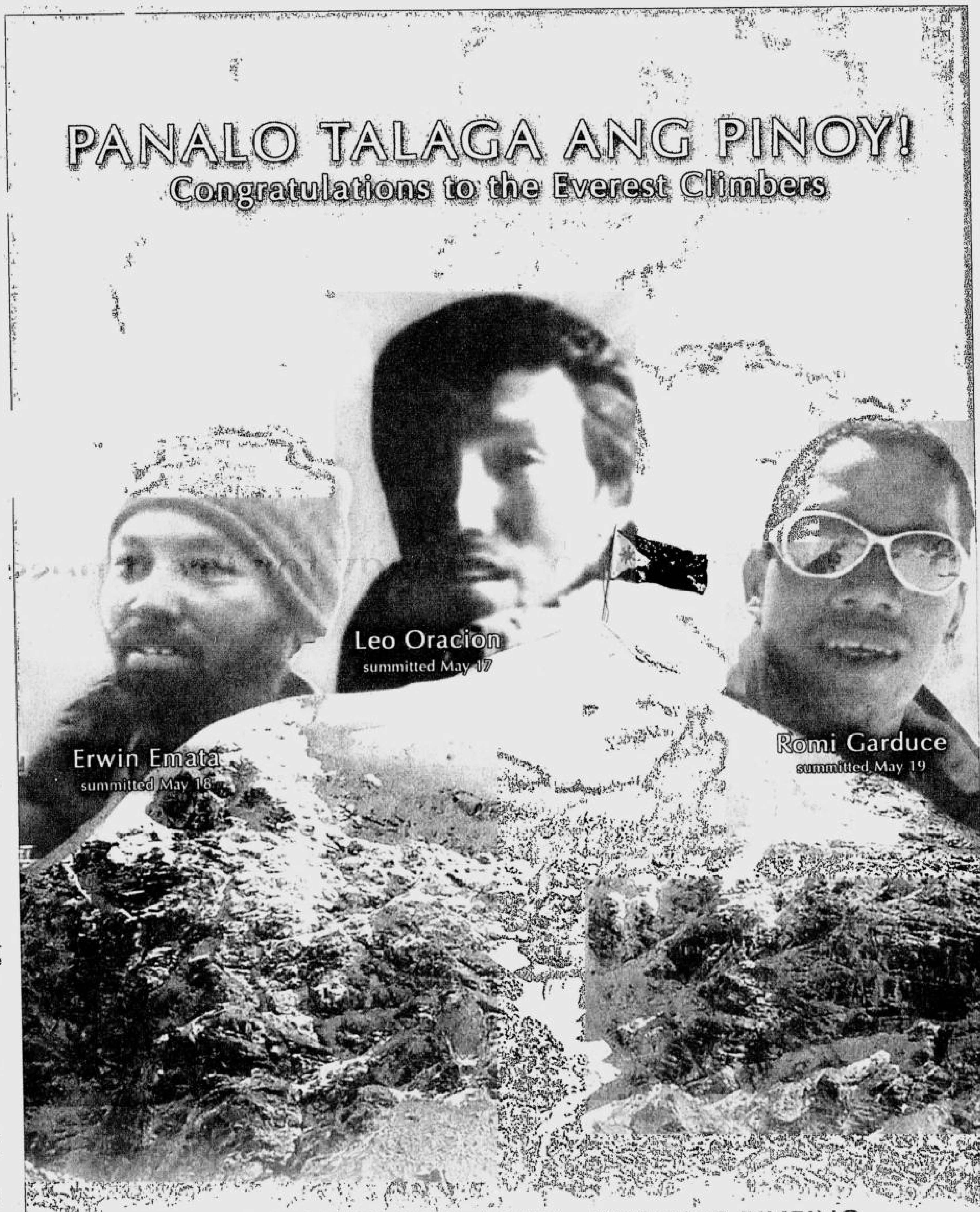
SOME 24 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS ARE participating in this year's Summer Youth Program of the New York Allied Institute of Quezon City, which ends on May 31. The annual event is the NYAI's support for the education and youth development program of the government. Activities include sports clinics in various desciplines.

### SJC hosts 2 derbies

TWO MORE BIG-TIME COCKFIGHTING EVENTS ARE lined up at the San Juan Coliseum for the last week of May. The Handlers Cup 4-cock derby gets off the ground tomorrow with a guaranteed prize of P300,000 and entry fee of P11,000. Deadline for the submission of entries is today. A super 5-cock derby will be held on Wednesday. Entry fee is P5,500. For cockhouse reservations, call 725-56-65, 725-53-69 and 0917-8041691.

# Southerners complete 15-km marathon swim

GLAN, SARANGANI—SWIMMERS FROM THIS province and South Cotabato have crossed the Sarangani Bay during a marathon swimming competition on Thursday in less than five hours. The Dadiangas Torpedoes based in General Santos City clocked 04:05:18, making it the fastest team to cross the 15-kilometer stretch that started in Tampuan Point in Barangay Kamanga in Maitum town. Only three out of the six participating teams survived the 15-kilometer across-the-bay swim, which started from Tango Beach here. The event, which started at 7 a.m. was witnessed by thousands of people and was considered a historic swim by organizers. No one had previously tried to cross the bay by swimming only. MJ Powerpines of Maasim town came in second by clocking four hours, seven minutes and 12 seconds while the Maasim Swimming Team came in third, registering 4:57:26 in the clock. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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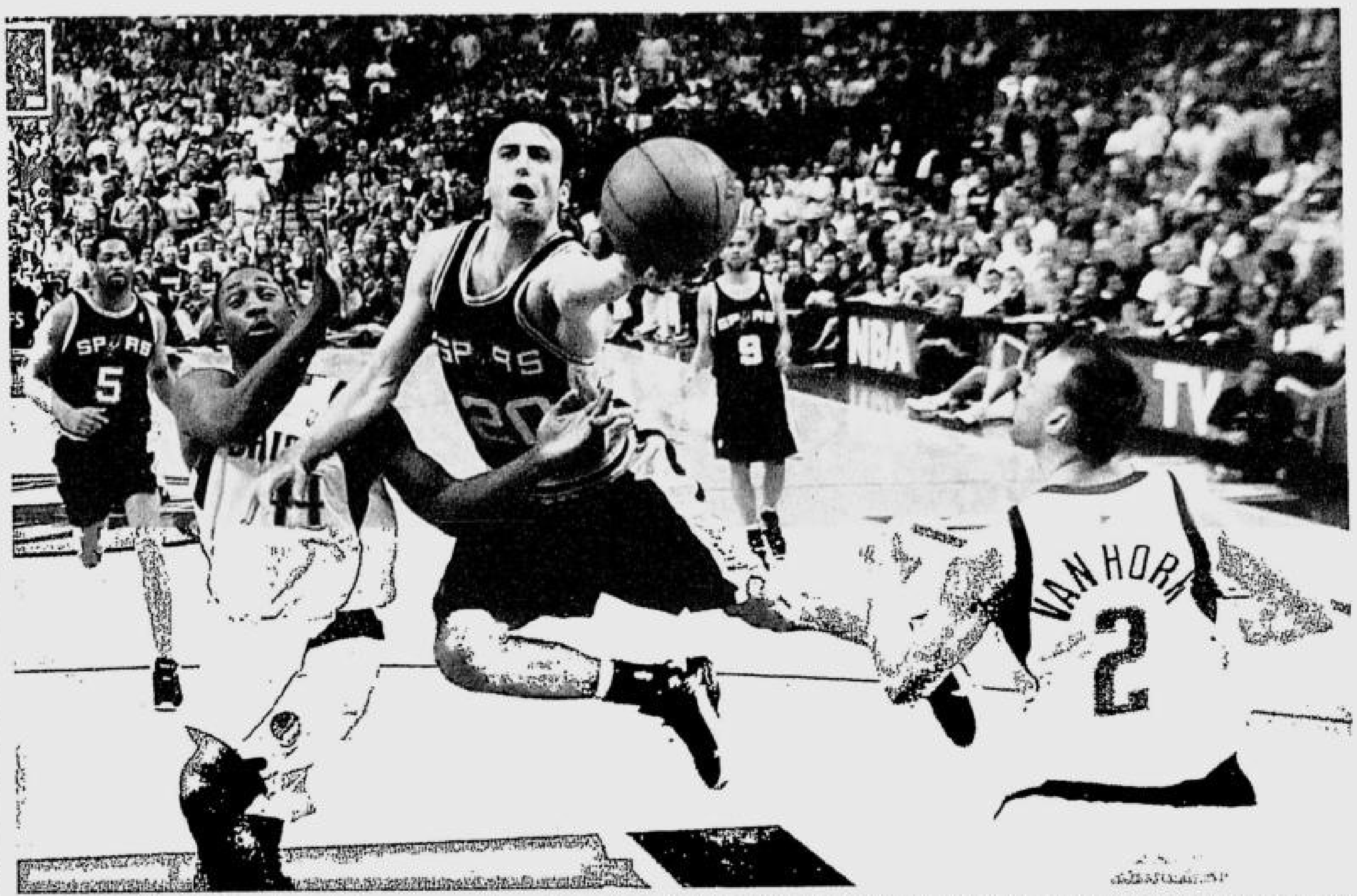
NBA PLAYOFFS

# It's down to a Game 7


**MANU** Ginobili of the San Antonio Spurs weaves his aerial magic against Adrian Griffin and Keith Van Horn (right) of the Dallas Mavericks. AFP

## Spurs take series back home as Ginobili, Duncan shine

**DALLAS, TEXAS—MANU GInobili scored 30 points and Tim Duncan had a big second half to lead San Antonio to a 91-86 win over Dallas on Friday in game six of their NBA quarterfinal series.**

In winning three NBA titles over the last seven years, the Spurs have shown they can handle pressure. They have driven that point home by avoiding elimination for the second straight time.

"At one point we felt like it was slipping away," Duncan said. "But we went into the half down by six and we felt like we were in a good position.

"We stuck with it."

On Monday, San Antonio will attempt to finish its comeback from a 3-1 deficit, something just eight teams have done in the NBA.

San Antonio entered Friday just 1-4 on the road in the postseason but got huge games from Ginobili and Duncan, while Dallas struggled on offense down the stretch without Jason Terry.

Terry was suspended for one game by the NBA on Thursday for throwing a punch at Michael Finley during a scrum in the waning seconds of game five.

**FINLEY:** Thorn to former team. AP

The Mavericks sorely missed him as Terry's quickness and outside shooting have given the slower Spurs fits throughout the series.

He is averaging 17.5 points and sealed a Game Four win with a rainbow jumper over Duncan in the final minute.

In Terry's absence, the Mavericks started Jerry Stackhouse alongside Devin Harris in the backcourt, and the duo struggled, shooting a combined seven-of-29 from the field and committing seven turnovers.

Ginobili scored 17 of his points in the first half, keeping the Spurs close as the Mavericks opened a 47-41 lead.

The game was tied at 67-67 after three quarters and Ginobili scored with 6:25 to play in the fourth to give San Antonio its biggest lead, 78-73.

Trying to reach the conference finals for just the second time since 1988, the fourth-seeded Mavericks tied the game at 82-82 when Harris split a pair of free throws with 2:59 remaining.

A former Maverick, Finley buried a three-pointer on San Antonio's next possession and, after a basket by Harris, Duncan scored in the lane to make it 87-84 with 1:48 to go.

"It is a strange situation for me," Finley said. "We made big shots down the stretch and were able to win. Mentally we have to stay strong."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points for Dallas, including a reverse layup with 17 seconds left to make it 87-86.

Ginobili made two free throws and Finley thwarted Dallas again, forcing Nowitzki to shoot an airball from the corner on a 3-point attempt.

France's Tony Parker capped the scoring with a pair of free throws. *AFP*

## Brash Wallace proves his point, keeps Pistons alive

NEW YORK—RASHEED WALLACE scored 24 points and the Detroit Pistons got three key offensive rebounds in the dying seconds to edge the Cleveland Cavaliers, 84-82, in National Basketball Association play Friday in Cleveland.

Richard Hamilton added 17 points for the Pistons, who forced a seventh and deciding game Sunday at Auburn Hills.

The winner of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final will play the Miami Heat for a berth in the NBA Finals.

The two-time defending Eastern Conference champions needed three offensive rebounds in the final minute after three misses and a key foul shot by Chauncey Billups to finally put away the stubborn Cavaliers and deny them the series upset.

"We knew we had to come to play today. We knew they were going to be excited. We had to come out and match their energy," Wallace told reporters.

"They beat us three straight times, the only team to do that to us this year, and damn sure we couldn't make it four straight and go out like that."

Wallace had boldly predicted a series victory after the Game Three loss and says he is still confident the Pistons will prevail now that the series is headed back to Detroit.

"We're going to go out there (Sunday) and play our basketball. It's going to be bananas in the Palace," Wallace added.

The win for Detroit still was not assured until the final buzzer, as LeBron James went to the free throw line with 1.4 seconds left, making his first shot and deliberately missing the second.

The rebound from that shot was nearly tipped into the basket but hit the rim and missed, ending the game.

Coming back from the brink of elimination is nothing new for the Pistons.

Last year the Pistons trailed 3-2 in the conference finals before rallying to beat Miami in seven games. In 2004, they won Game Six at New Jersey and then won Game Seven at home in that series.

In 2003, Detroit won Game Six at Orlando in a series and then ended the Magic's season in the series finale at home.

"We're excited about going home," Detroit coach Flip Saunders told reporters.

"We had guys that made plays. We were able to come up with a big win. There's a lot of people who thought we were dead, so we'll go home breathing."

Billups and Tayshaun Prince both scored 15 points for the Pistons, while Ben Wallace had 10 rebounds and four points.

James had 32 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were cheered on by a partisan crowd.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 16 points and six rebounds for Cleveland.

Cleveland coach Mike Brown felt his club was still alive, despite missing a chance to wrap the series at home.

"Our effort was there, but we can play harder and we can definitely play better," Brown said. "You have to give the Pistons credit. There's a fine line between winning and losing a basketball game." *Reuters*

**DESPITE** being foiled twice while guaranteeing a Detroit series victory, Rasheed Wallace is confident his prediction would still hold true. AP

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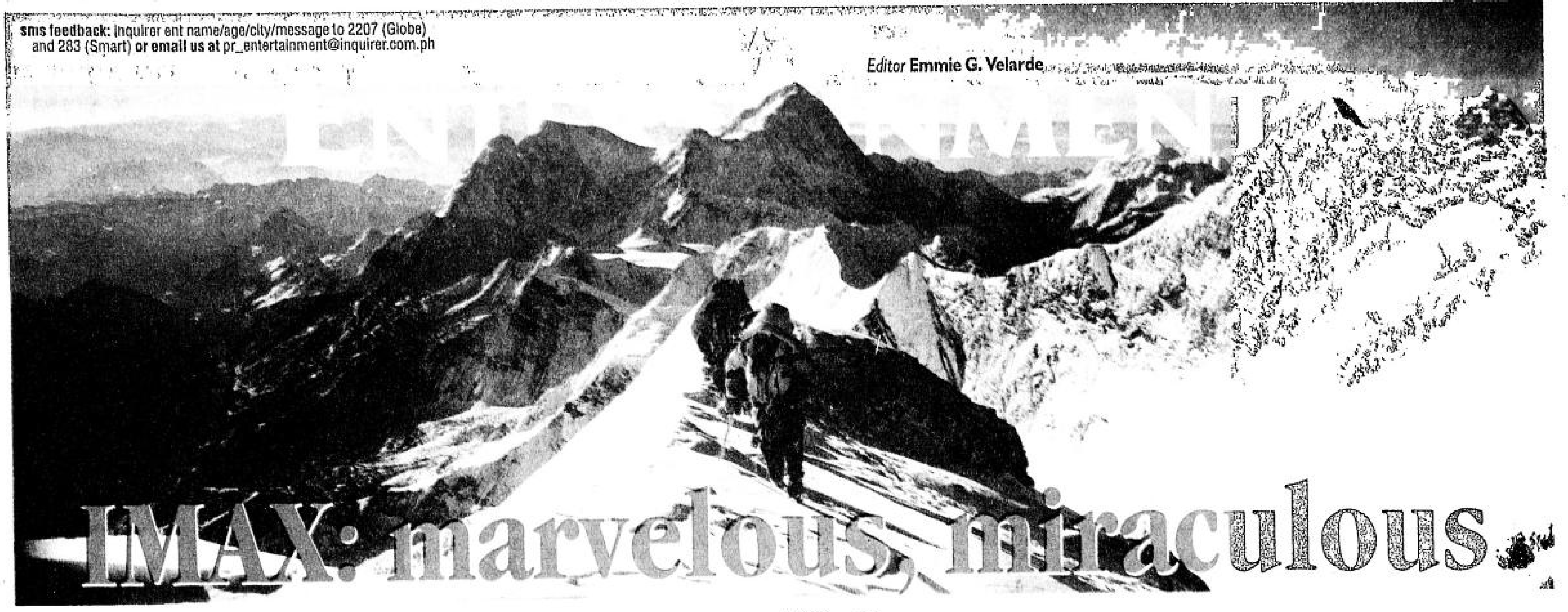
Editor Emmie G. Velarde



# IMAX: marvelous, miraculous

**By Paul Daza**
*Contributor*

IN A CASE OF NEAR-PERFECT timing, members of the press were transported to Mt. Everest a mere 19 hours before tri-athlete Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to reach the treacherous mountain's summit. No, those writers weren't actually *on* Everest, but it was as though they were, thanks to the miraculous movie marvel that is IMAX.

Rising majestically like a mountain in a field of hills, the San Miguel Coca Cola IMAX theater is in the spanking-new SM Mall of Asia complex. With a screen eight stories high, startlingly crisp digital sound, and steep but comfy stadium seating, the IMAX theater is a larger-than-life, man-made wonder—the most exciting evolution in the movie-going experience to hit this country in decades.

## Into your lap

Screened at the theater were 3D trailers for three upcoming IMAX films—"T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous," "Happy Feet" and "Ant Bully"—which required the use of sporty polarized glasses. IMAX 3D is so sharp and the colors so startlingly vivid, they make recent 3D flicks like "Spy Kids 3D" and "The Adventures of Shark Boy & Lava Girl" look drab. By comparison, the cute baby penguin at the center of the "Happy Feet" trailer looked like he could dance right out of the screen and into every viewer's lap. Each strand of his feathery body was so real, the spectators spontaneously reached out to pet the creature.

After the trailers, the short documentary "NASCAR 3D: The IMAX Experience" came on. Narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, the 40-minute film is a celebration of the most famous annual event for car racers. Appropriately, the IMAX theater even smelled like the interior of a new car! Thanks to 44 strategically-placed speakers, the audience felt like it was plunked right in the middle of a race course, with the roar of powerful engines circling it. And how effective was the 3D? In a shot where a race car is torn apart and one of its tires hurtles towards the camera, some folks in the audience actually ducked!

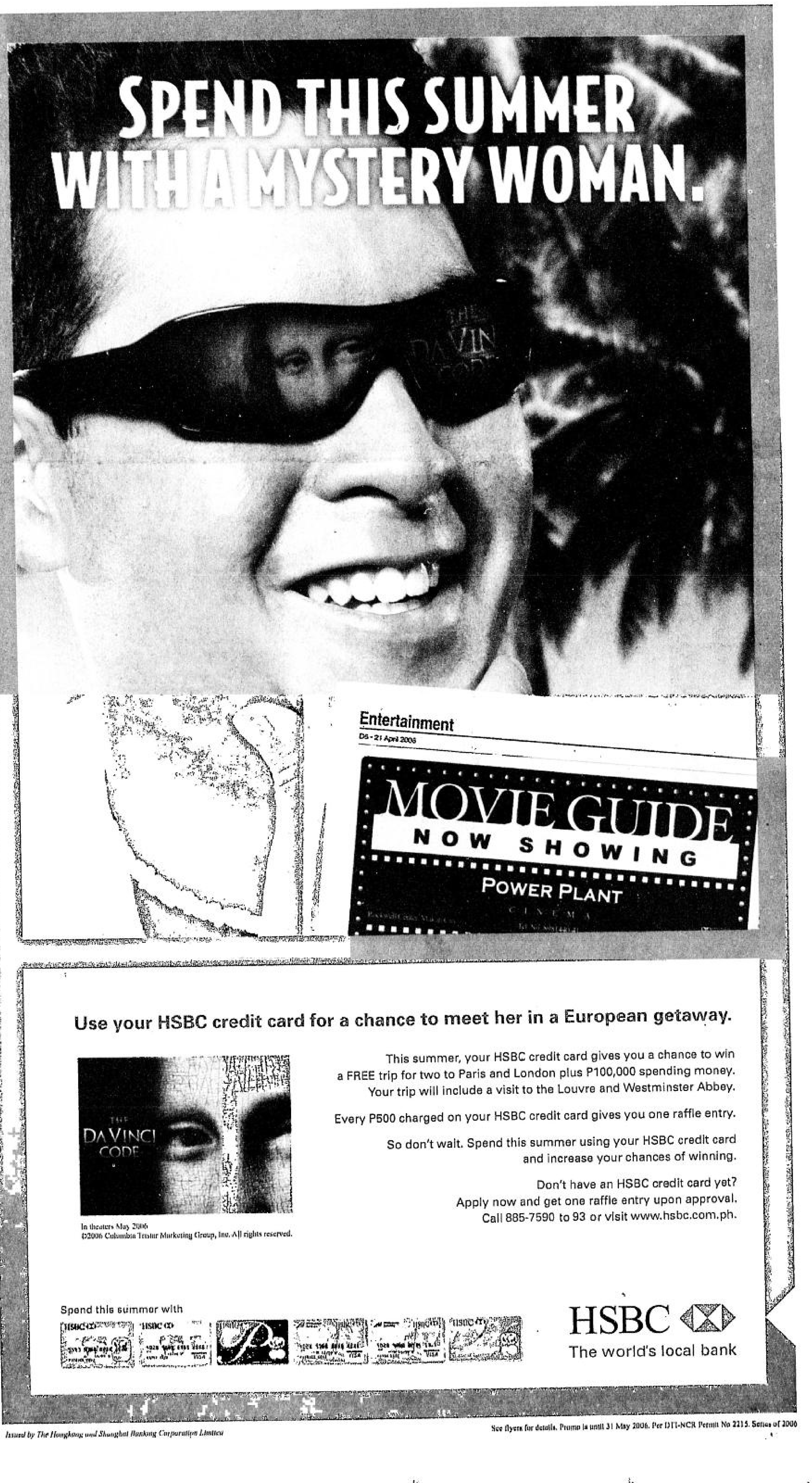
After "NASCAR 3D," it was time for the 45-minute "Everest," perhaps the most awe-inspiring, breathtaking docu-drama ever filmed. It followed a brave team in its attempt to scale the world's tallest mountain in May 1996, and showed how the deadliest storm in Everest's history engulfed the mountain, killing eight climbers and nearly halting filming on the IMAX project.

## Still relevant

Though it was first released in IMAX theaters in 1998, "Everest" shows no sign of becoming dated, especially with the current Filipino fascination with the mountain. Respectfully narrated by Liam Neeson, "Everest" is riveting, informative, even heart-tugging. Crystal-clear images captured by the IMAX cameras make the video footage seen on local news shows look like home movies. With their snow-bleached images broadcast on TV screens, the videos don't even come close to capturing the grandeur and untamed beauty of the world's tallest mountain. Plus, the IMAX screen is so tall (22 meters), you actually have to move your eyes up and down to see the breathtaking images in their entirety.

But more than being a showcase of what the large-screen format is capable of, "Everest" is also an inspiring story about how triumph sometimes walks with tragedy. The film handles the deaths and disfigurements that resulted from the May 1996 storm with tasteful aesthetic distance. "Everest" shows us that even when filmmakers have an all-seeing IMAX camera, sometimes the most human thing to do is turn the camera off or make it look elsewhere when death or misfortune is a few feet away.

For those who don't know why there's such a fuss over the Pinoys who successfully scaled Mt. Everest last week, this award-winning film should leave no doubt about what an edifying, death-defying feat the climb is. And for those who aren't gifted with the legs and lungs to conquer the mountain, the "Everest" IMAX experience is the safest, most affordable way to ascend the peak and know what it's like to be on top of the world.



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2 DA VINCI CODE
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3 DA VINCI CODE
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4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
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5 OVER THE HEDGE
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6 DA VINCI CODE
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7 POSEIDON
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 DA VINCI CODE
11:45 2:55 6:05 9:15

9 DA VINCI CODE
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10 SILENT HILL
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### ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

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5 AQUAMARINE
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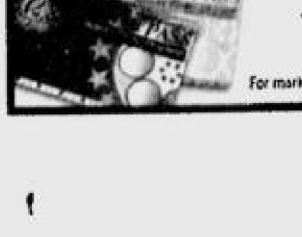

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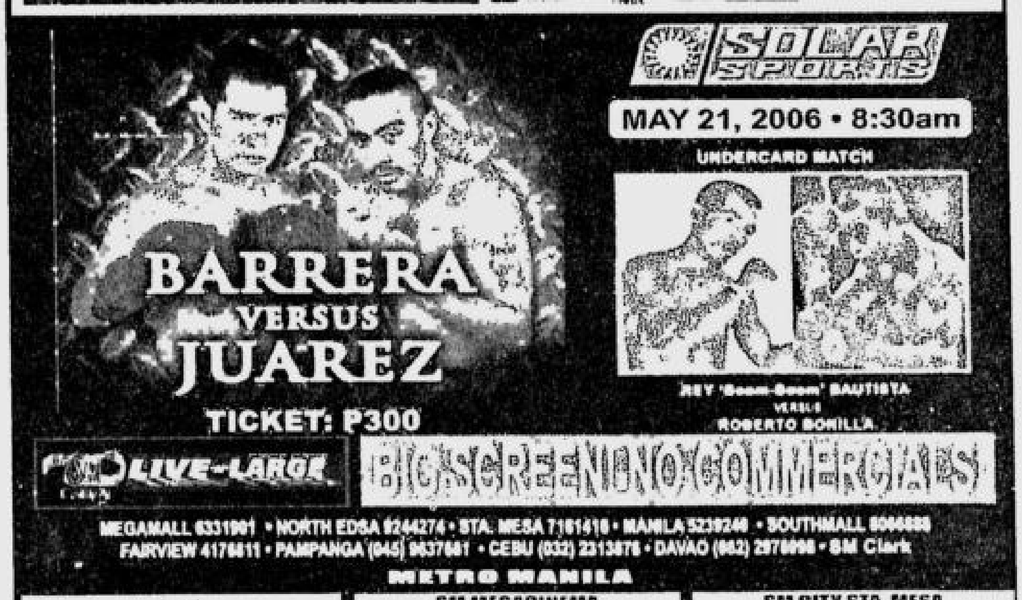

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## FEEDBACK

### Attention, DOLE

From Ricci Santiago (signorelli@coolcare.com) Dammam KSA:

I agree with Nestor Torre's column titled, "Wrong way to discover a child star," where he says children with dreams of show biz stardom are manipulated by directors, producers and even their own parents.

Surely this affects the child's psychology and how they treat themselves and others in the future. Sad to say, it is in the nature of Filipinos to brag about our children. Thus, many allow their kids to join silly contests, for exposure and/or talent fee.

A child who is totally engrossed in show biz cannot do normal things like playing and interacting with normal children. The Department of Labor and Employment should be stricter about granting permission for children to work.

### Why Gerald?

From Billy John Punzalan (bjworld01@yahoo.com) Ext. San Antonio, Cavite City:

I think the judges should explain why Gerald Santos deserved to win the recently concluded "Pinoy Pop Superstar."

*Magaling din naman siya, at tama si* Regine *sa pagsasabing* he is the next *sikat na* Pinoy balladeer. *Pero sa* competition *na 'yun eh kitang kita na mas nangingibabaw 'yung* superstar quality *ni* Aicelle. *Na*-dissappoint *talaga kami. At 'yung* song *na* composition *ni* Danny Tan *para sa mananalo ay* fit *para sa boses ni* Gerald Santos. *Hindi ba marapat na pag-isipan na bago pa man ang* grand showdown *ay mayroon na silang* winner?

### Hello, GMA

From Fernan Gonzales (fernan@singtel.com) Singapore:

Please send this feedback to GMA Management. Here in Singapore, a lot of Filipinos enjoy The Filipino Channel. We know that TFC is run by ABS-CBN, hence, we're limited to watching only their programs which, sad to say, are often boring.

Is GMA 7 not thinking of going global like ABS-CBN? I know it has a cable channel in the US, but wouldn't it be nice to have it as well in some parts of Asia or Middle East where OFWs abound? We miss watching "Eat Bulaga," "Saksi," "Debate," "Bubble Gang" and other great GMA 7 shows.

### Why not?

From Moli (molichild@hotmail.com) 844 Crittenden St NE Washington DC 20017:

Why can't critics of "The Da Vinci code" instead protest against TV shows like "Pinoy Big Brother," "Eat Bulaga" and show biz *chismis* shows?

# MMFF '06 screenplay selections

By Nini Valera

NINETEEN SCREENPLAYS WERE SUBMITted to the Metro Manila Film Festival 2006 selection and screening committee. Five are from producer Lily Monteverde, who earlier threatened to boycott the film fest this year in protest of last year's winners.

From Monteverde's Regal Entertainment are: "Shake, Rattle and Roll 8," starring Keempee de Leon, BJ Forbes, and Iza Calzado, directed by Mike Tuviera, Quark Henares and Ryan Carlos; "Mano Po 5: Gua Ai Di," with Dennis Trillo, Angel Locsin, Zsa Zsa Padilla, and Christopher de Leon, directed by Jun Lana; "Zsa Zsa Zaturnnah," with Ruffa Mae Quinto, Ogie Alcasid, Allan K and Alfred Vargas, directed by Mark Meily.

Under MAQ Productions, Monteverde submitted "No Other Love," starring Eddie Garcia, Angelica Panganiban, Pauleen Luna, Boots Anson Roa, and Gloria Romero, directed by Joel Lamangan; and "Super Noypi," with Mark Herras, Jennylyn Mercado, Jackie Rice, John Pratts, and Marky Cielo, directed by Quark Henares.

## Juday-Ryan for Star

From ABS-CBN's Star Cinema: "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," starring Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo, directed by Joey Reyes; "Huwag Lilingon," with Marvin Agustin, Kristine Hermosa and Anne Curtis, directed by Jerry Sineneng and Quark Henares; and "Tanging Pamilya," with starring Vhong Navarro and Toni Gonzaga, directed by Joyce Bernal.

Octo-Arts' International: "Enteng Kabisote 3," with Vic Sotto and Kristine Hermosa, directed by Tony Reyes. From its satellite company, Canary Films: "Pagkagat ng Dilim," with Rica Peralejo, Jennylyn Mercado, Pauleen Luna, and Dingdong Dantes, directed by Joey Reyes.

Unitel Productions: "Inang Yaya," starring Maricel Soriano, directed by Pablo Biglang Awa; and "Blackout," with Robin Padilla and Iza Calzado, directed by Ato Bautista.

Cesar Montano's CM Films: "Mga Batang Maynila," starring himself and wife Sunshine Cruz. Montano also directs.

Earth Moving Pictures: "Someone Who Cares," starring Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo, directed by Elwood Perez.

JMCM Productions: "Bidasari," starring Sid Luceo and Katherine Luna, directed by Mario O'Hara.

Virgin Pictures: "Short Time," starring Rufa Mae Quinto, Maui Taylor, Rica Peralejo, and Marvin Agustin, directed by Joey Reyes.

Violet Films: "Tatlong Baraha," starring Lito Lapid, Mark Lapid, Cindy Kurleto, and Sarah Geronimo, directed by Tony Reyes.

Games We Play, Inc.: "Habang May Pangarap," starring Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero, and Boots Anson Roa, directed by Joven Tan.

Ideal Concept: "Super Kulas," starring Ogie Alcasid or Michael V. or Janno Gibbs, Iza Calzado, Carmina Villaroel and Gelli de Belen, directed by Boy Vinarao.

## Final list

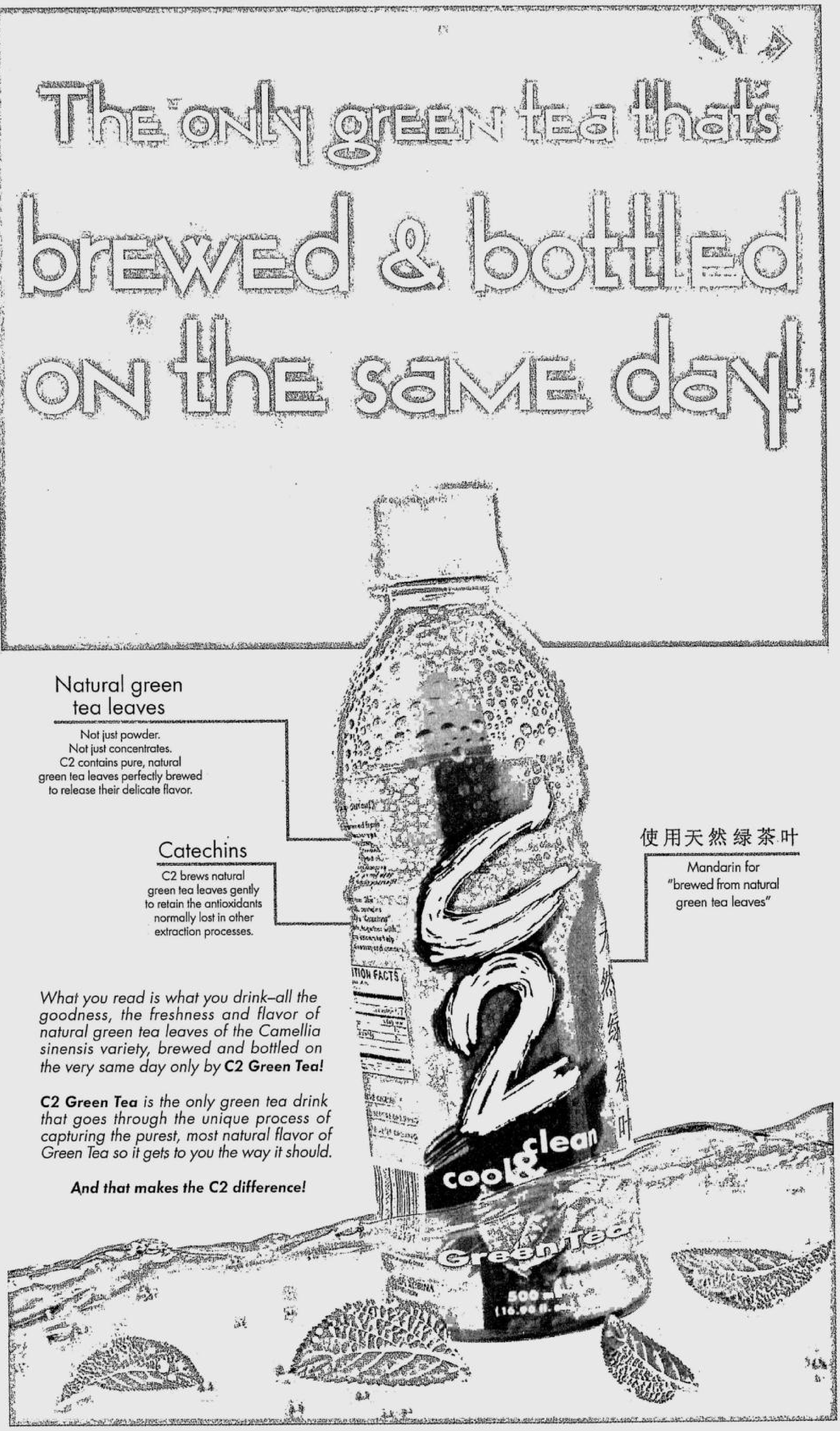
Manny Nuqui, a member of the MMFF executive committee, told INQUIRER that 10 films will be selected this year, as in the previous years. He said the final list may be announced by end of the month.

This will give producers enough time to produce the selected entries. The festival is held during the yearend holidays.

The selection will be based solely on the screenplay. Last year, the MMFF conducted a second round of selection based on the finished product.

According to Boots Anson-Roa, an ex-oficio member of the executive committee (representing Mowelfund, a festival beneficiary), all 10 entries will have simultaneous playdates. In the past few years, several films would open on Christmas Day and the others on New Year's Day.

Nuqui doesn't think having simultaneous opening days is profitable. "For big players like Star and Regal," he said, "the idea of showing their movies in only 40 theaters will not be appealing. They are used to exhibiting in as many as 100 theaters."



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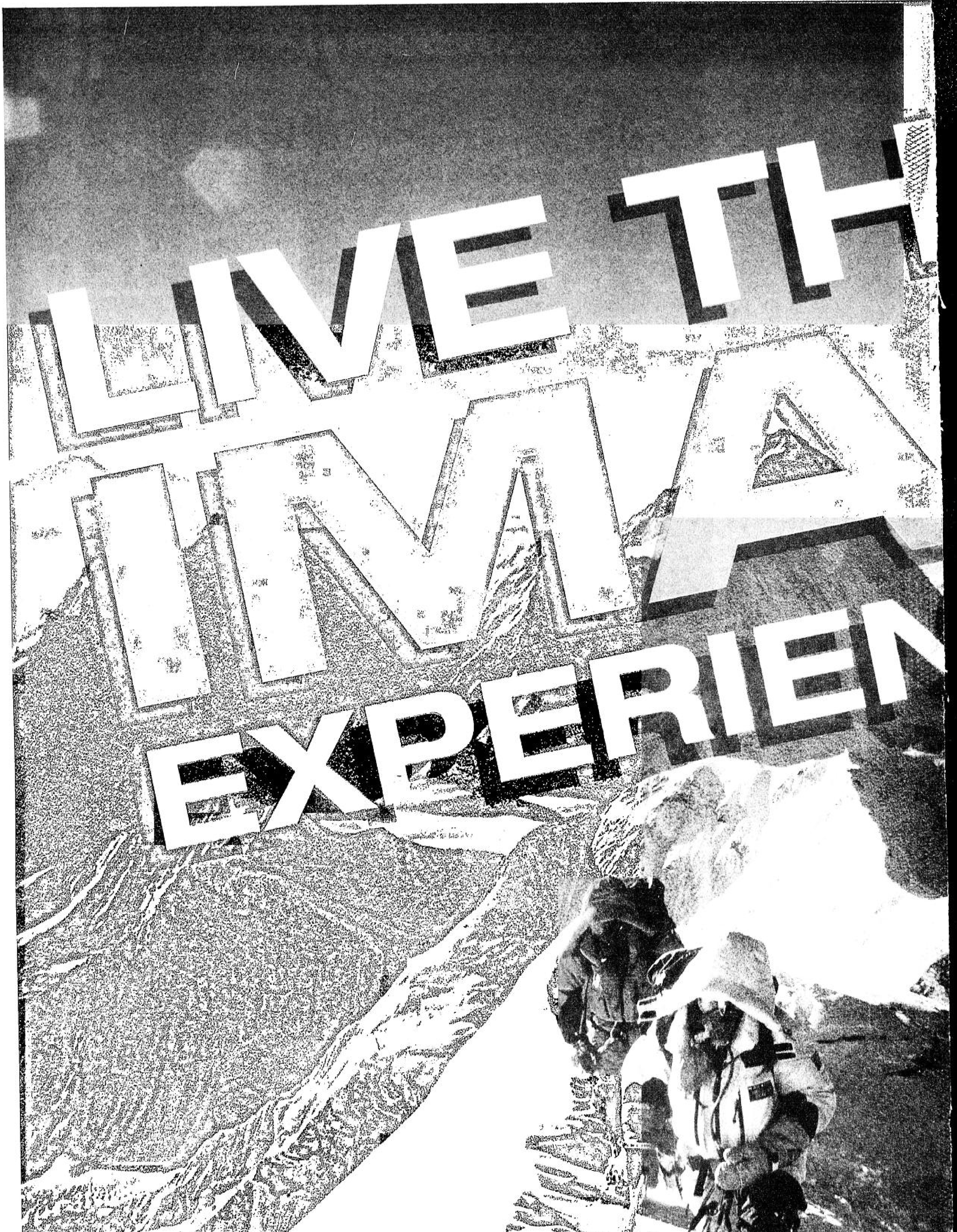
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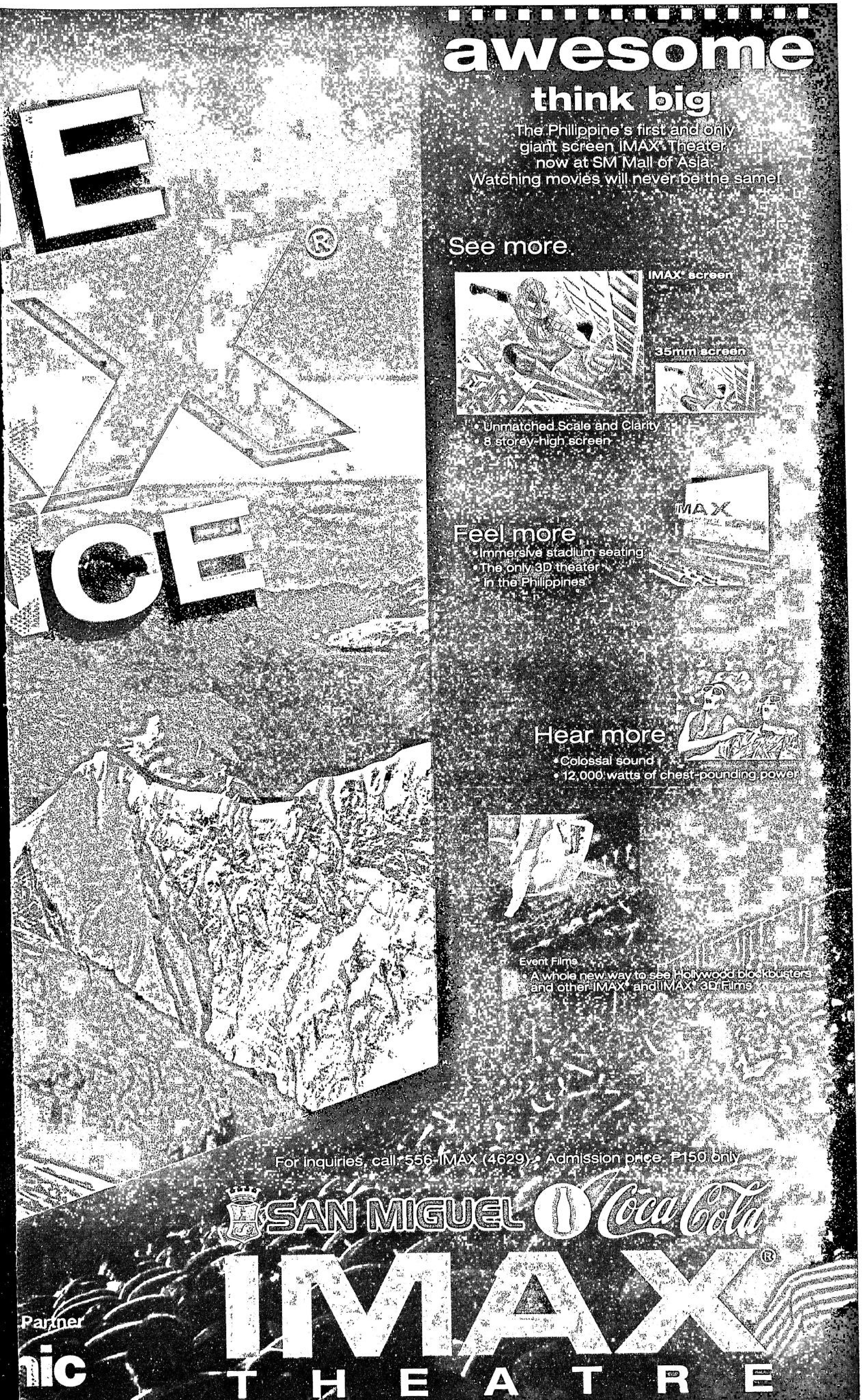

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# Mia Farrow talks about her charmed, not ominous, life

LOS ANGELES—IT'S REMARKable how far **Neill Dela Llana** and **Ian Gamazon** have gone with their little-film-that-could, "Cavite."

Shot guerrilla-filmmaking style (on the sly and on the run) in the Philippines, "Cavite" scores another major feat on Friday, May 26. The film—about how a young Fil-Am's return to his native country for his father's funeral becomes a thrilling and compelling story of kidnap and an examination of identity and conscience—opens in LA and New York.

We've followed the journey of Neill Dela Llana and Ian Gamazon with "Cavite" since it was shown in the LA Film Festival last year. We were fortunate to personally witness the duo receive their Someone to Watch Award at the Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica early this year. They almost couldn't believe that a film they shot on such a small budget (they max-ed out their credit cards) has taken them to that stage, being handed a plaque by no less than **Willem Dafoe** and **Lili Taylor**.

"Cavite," which has earned glowing reviews from the major papers in the US, will be shown at the Nu Art (11272 Santa Monica Blvd.) in West LA and at the Cinema Village (22 East 12th Street) in New York. To be shown in Manila in August, "Cavite" also opens on June 16 in San Francisco and San Diego.

Neill and Ian recently took part in Visual Communications' 22nd Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival panel discussion entitled "The State of Pinoy Film Independents: A Conversation with Filipino and Filipino-American Indie Filmmakers." They joined the following talents at the event, held at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) building: **Cindy Sison**, VP for International Sales, Unitel Pictures; **Winston F. Emano**, panel moderator; **David Maquiling**, first Filipino member of the DGA; **Sari Lluch Dalena** and **Keith Sicat**, co-directors, "Rigodon"; **Auraeus Solito**, director, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros"; and **Yam Laranas**, director, "Sigaw."

## 'Omen' remake

Actress **Mia Farrow** talked about her charmed life (although she's also had her share of downs) in a recent press con in New York. Mia, who appears in the remake of the horror film "The Omen," was linked or married to the following iconic names of our time: the late great **Frank Sinatra**, **Andre Previn** (conductor, composer and pianist), **Sven Nykvist** (a two-time Oscar winner and considered one of the all-time greatest cinematographers) and **Woody Allen** (with whom she made several acclaimed films until their split; he married **Soon-Yi**, her adopted daughter with Andre).

Now sporting long hair, a contrast to the shorn hair which she is famous for since appearing in her landmark film, "Rosemary's Baby," Mia gamely answered all questions, referring to Woody simply as "my then boyfriend" and talked, in general terms, about the stormy chapter that ensued when she discovered Woody's affair with Soon-Yi.

Appearing with this daughter of actress **Maureen O'Sullivan** and director **John Farrow** (both deceased) in "The Omen," timed to be shown in the US on 6-6-06, are **Liev Schreiber**, **Julia Stiles** and **Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick**, as the boy who might just be the son of you-know-who. The movie is directed by John Moore ("Behind Enemy Lines," "Flight of the Phoenix").

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*Ruben V. Nepales*

**Please take us back to your glamorous childhood.**

I was born in Beverly Hills. I went to school there so my friends were the kids of movie stars. I went to school with **Lucille Ball**'s kids and movie star kids who were more famous than my parents. You just got used to the fact that some people had really famous parents. I don't know if this still happens, but the tour buses used to go up and down Beverly Hills. As kids, we used to put on plays for the people on tour buses. We'd get ketchup bottles, stagger around with rubber knives and (laughter) pretend to die because this was right after **Cheryl Crane**, **Lana Turner**'s daughter, had stabbed somebody. We thought it was expected of us (laughter). Even our dog was famous (laughter). It was so crazy. We got used to having our pictures taken. We just thought that was the way things were. The weird thing was, no one had any relatives aside from immediate families. It wasn't like I went to my aunt's house after school, or my cousins came over for my birthday. No one ever mentioned an aunt, a cousin, an in-law, nothing. We just had people like agents and friends who are movie stars.

My mom said she could have bought half of Beverly Hills for like $11,000 at the time. It was so cheap. When she came out in the 1930s from Ireland to LA, her first movie was called "Song of My Heart." It was one of the very first talkies. People were just beginning to come out to Beverly Hills.

**You must miss your mom a lot.**

She was most entertaining and gracious. I miss her a lot—don't get me started. She was a great mom.

**You starred in "Rosemary's Baby," a film that helped define the horror genre, and now you are in a remake of "The Omen," which is another standout from that genre.**

I was 21 when I was offered the part for "Rosemary's Baby" only because **Jane Fonda** turned it down. I just happened to be around. The role gave me my career, some standing in the business and the opportunity to work with an amazing director, **John Cassavetes**. I learned so much from everybody. It's been a long time so I have not seriously thought of devil movies.

Director **John Moore** came and asked me to do this film while I was in rehearsal for a play here in New York with Julia Stiles. I said, why? The first one was such a grand movie. As I recall, there was nothing wrong with the first one. John said no, he had ideas on how it could be brought up to date and that most people alive have never seen that movie. My next question was, why me? Because the great **Billie Whitelaw** terrorized me in that film. John said, who would hire a nanny like that—she was too scary. This time around, he wants [the character] to be more subtle. He said, I want someone angelic—his exact words—so he asked if I would do it now. I was already working with Julia and I loved her. I wanted to work with Liev because in our profession, he's considered to be the new **Laurence Olivier**. I also wanted to work with **John [Moore]** because I thought he has tremendous style as a director. And I thought, I get to be in Prague, which is my favorite city, so it was great.

**How do you, with your great experience, work with a kid like Seamus who is acting for the first time in a feature film?**

We came over to Prague on the same plane. By the time we got there, we were friends. He's a really outgoing kid, very outspoken and a good kid, with good parents... loads of fun. He's affectionate. He didn't like school. He would cry when they made him go off to school. He had that ability to stare. John Moore would say, just stare like that and he could stare and not blink. He had those beautiful eyes and he could just fix them. Other than that, he's a completely normal little boy. You always wonder about kids working, but I think he had a good time.

**Your life virtually reflects the history of Hollywood. You have known some great names.**

Yes, (legendary filmmaker) **George Cukor** (even) my godfather was George Cukor (the legendary director).

**You were truly lucky to have such a charmed life.**

It was my extraordinary good fortune to be born to parents who inspired me as they did to escape being paralyzed by polio (at age nine) despite a terrifying bout with it, to be dropped back into my life, to be given an education and to have known the friends that I have. I mentioned my godfather because some of you here are old enough to know George Cukor was and his legacy. To me, he was Uncle George—a greater man in my life I couldn't have had. My mom worked with Uncle George in "David Copperfield."

In that movie, my mother had this scene where she was dying. She was in great pain lying on her bed. My mother told me that, off camera, Uncle George was twisting her foot off camera. To achieve her expressions of pain as she is delivering her dying speech, he would, every once in a while, twist (laughter) and wring her foot. But they remained great friends.

I lucked out on that because when I came to New York to visit my mother, I got a part in a play in "The Importance of Being Earnest" at 18. Even though there was a newspaper strike and the critics didn't come, **Vivien Leigh**, who went to school with my mother, sent agents to watch. Fox Studios came and saw it at her request. Fox gave me a contract.

I lucked out that my first TV series, "Peyton Place," was popular. I even lucked out with my first husband (**Frank Sinatra**) because we ended up with such a solid friendship. People don't know how kind he was to me throughout my life and what good friends we remained. I lucked out in having the children that I have, in the career I have had and the many people who have been in my life through that many years. I lucked out that I am still working and to have had the health to enjoy all these things, this long and adventurous life.

**MIA FARROW** with Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick. The boy can hold a stare, she says.

**How is Seamus, your son with Woody, who was considered a child genius?**

He went to college at 11. He changed his name from **Seamus Ronan Farrow** to **Ronan Seamus Farrow** because when he kept getting state awards for his top grades and they kept calling him "Seem us" (pronunciation), he went with Ronan. Now he's Ronan Seamus. At 15, he graduated number one in his class from Bard College. He got into Yale Law School. He deferred for two years to work for Ambassador **Richard Holbrook**. He was one of the founding members of this genocide intervention fund. He's the Unicef Youth spokesperson.

We traveled together to Darfur over a year ago. We're returning there on June 10 because, as we all know, there's a genocide unfolding there. He has written about this and had his pieces published. He speaks at universities around the country. He's speaking at the UN in two weeks. He's a passionate humanist, a superb writer and one of those human beings that we hope the world will be peopled with and to whom we apologize for leaving things in such a mess.

**You had 14 children (majority are adopted; four biological children—three with Andre and one with Woody). Can you please update us on your big family?**

Any minute now, I'm going to be a grandmother again. My son **Fletch**'s wife is about to have a baby. That will be my fifth grandchild. My son **Matthew** and his wife are going to have another baby in October. At the moment, I have five children at home but they're all turning 18. Next year, I will have only two at home. One will be 13 and one will be 15 so it gives me time to contemplate more about work, do more for Unicef and maybe even to write again.

**I couldn't imagine having that many children.**

I know. I can't believe it myself sometimes but look, my eldest children, the twins, are now 36. I see the wonderful people they have become. They're so much help to me with the [batch] that I now have who are in their early teens. I was probably presumptuous to think that I could do this for so many children as a single parent but it has given such meaning to my life.

**How are the children with physical challenges faring?**

Some of them have their struggles for sure and some of them came with very scarred past. Some of them I didn't get until they were older and so much had already been done to them but I believe they're all going to be fine.

**Have your twins with Andre inherited his great musical genes?**

They play the piano but they're not pianists. One is a lawyer and one is a teacher. Lovely boys, and we had Fletcher as well. They all love music. They take their wives to the opera and concerts. They love their father and they love the music but none of them have their father's talent.

**What do you cherish about your marriage to Andre?**

I came to him knowing nothing about classical music. Frank had taught me a little but my classical music education came from Andre, from being backstage and hearing and seeing all those great performers and performances. Andre is still one of my best friends. He spent the Christmas holidays with us. I adore him and his wife, **Anne-Sophie Mutter** (acclaimed violinist)—talk about a great artist. Andre is brilliant. Wasn't I lucky to be with him?

**Where do you live now?**

I live in Connecticut in a farmhouse that doesn't farm anything (laughter). It was a farm a century or more ago.

**You still have this famous smile. Where do you find your inner beauty?**

I feel every bit my age but I have enjoyed my life so much. I've been so lucky and I am aware of it at every moment. You know, to be here with all of you, to have a job that I can be proud to be in, I have been so fortunate.

**You originally wanted to be a nun.**

I didn't want to be just a nun. I wanted to be a cloistress, a Carmelite. The nuns said, well, you'll have to do a load of improving before anyone would consider taking you as a nun. To everyone's relief, I didn't try.

**What do you cherish about your relationship with Frank?**

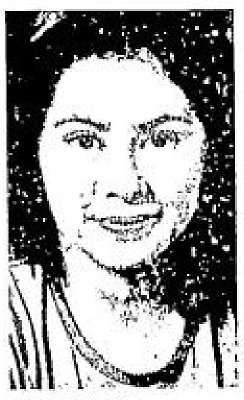
Regarding Frank's supposed volatility, I saw much less of that than anyone has ever written. Much of that has been way overplayed. If you see the early photographs of Frank Sinatra, you see an extremely shy, sensitive man. He did stay protective of me. And I'm protective of him even now. He was protective of himself and the persona that he built up. You hear the real Frank in his lonely songs, in his love songs and in his eyes and in his early photographs. You just can't miss it. That was the Frank that I knew best and the best of our times together were very wonderful.

*E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.*

**RUSHES**

# Look-alikes Connie Sison, Audrey Tautou and Aiko Melendez

**AUDREY** Tautou



**CONNIE** Sison

SEPARATED at birth? Don't you think TV host Connie Sison is the spitting image of French actress Audrey Tautou, lead actress in "The Da Vinci Code"? Connie, former ABS-CBN talent, also admits she's always mistaken for actress and Quezon City councilor Aiko Melendez.

## Still together

Despite their denials, actor Dennis Trillo and beauty queen Carlene Aguilar are still very much "on." The award-winning actor dropped by the Miss Philippines-Earth victory party at the Carousel Gardens in Mandaluyong City last week to pick up the 5'9" stunner.

## By his lonesome

**PAOLO** Contis

Actor Paolo Contis was by his lonesome when INQUIRER Entertainment spotted him at the ground floor of the Edsa Shangri-La Mall Mandaluyong City on Wednesday afternoon. The actor is romantically linked to actress-commercial model Isabel Oli.

## Less successful try

**GINGER** Ann Conejero

Recently crowned Miss Philippines-Earth Catherine Untalan has confessed that she tried out for Binibining Pilipinas last March, but failed. Catherine said she was not prepared at the time, having been busy with school. Last month, she graduated from the University of the Philippines, with honors.

## Good contact

Before Miss Philippines-Air 2006 (runner-up) Ginger Ann Conejero flew to Manila to join Miss Philippines-Earth, she had a photo session with Fadil Berisha, official photographer of Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants. Ginger met the Albanian lensman through an Albanian colleague at work in a Los Angeles legal Internet company.

## Gold digger?

**ANGELINA** Jolie and Brad Pitt

In London, Paul McCartney's estranged wife said accusations that she married the ex-Beatle for his money were more devastating than having a leg amputated. Quoting British newspapers, the Agence France Presse said Heather Mills McCartney, 38, considered the rumors "far more difficult to cope with" than the 1993 accident when she was hit by a police motorcycle and had to have her left leg amputated.

## Jolie baby watch

In Swakopmund, Namibia, Reuters reported that Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie remained "almost invisible" in their resort dwelling, ducking reporters intent on getting a career-making scoop. Local tabloids are predicting the imminent arrival of the most famous celebrity baby of the year, Baby Brangelina, One said on Wednesday that Jolie was to give birth within the next two days.

## She'ss sseventy

**PAUL** McCartney and his wife Heather

From Edinburgh, AFP reported that Iconic Bond girl Ursula Andress celebrated her 70th birthday with a glitzy party on board the Royal Yacht Britannia on Thursday. The 1960s sex symbol from Switzerland is best known for playing Honey Rider in the first James Bond movie "Dr. No" in 1962.

---

"THE SUITE Life of Zack and Cody"

# Disney's treat of 3s

**KID FIT**

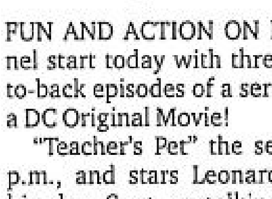
FUN AND ACTION ON DISNEY CHANnel start today with three back-to-back-to-back episodes of a series, followed by a DC Original Movie!

"Teacher's Pet" the series starts at 6 p.m., and stars Leonard and his dog Spot—a talking canine that yearns for education. Spot disguises himself as a boy to attend school and he becomes the teacher's pet.

Then in "Teacher's Pet: The Movie," at 7:30 p.m., Spot takes matters into his own hands and enlists the help of an evil mad scientist to transform him into a real human!

## Hilarious

On May 28, 6 p.m., watch the mischievous and hilarious antics of twins Zack and Cody as they make the Tipton Hotel and its guests crazy in "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody."



"TEACHER'S Pet"

## Supernatural

Finally, join the other funky-cool twins, Alex and Camryn on a supernatural adventure-discovery in the TV premiere of "Asia of Twitches."

The girls are born in a magical kingdom called Coventry but are soon separated when their father sends them to earth for protection against evil forces. On their 21st birthday, the girls are reunited and discover that they have something wonderful in common!

But not everything's peachy. They soon find out that they must fight the evil forces that threaten Coventry and their very existence. "Twitch" action begins at 7:30 p.m.

"ASIA of Twitches"

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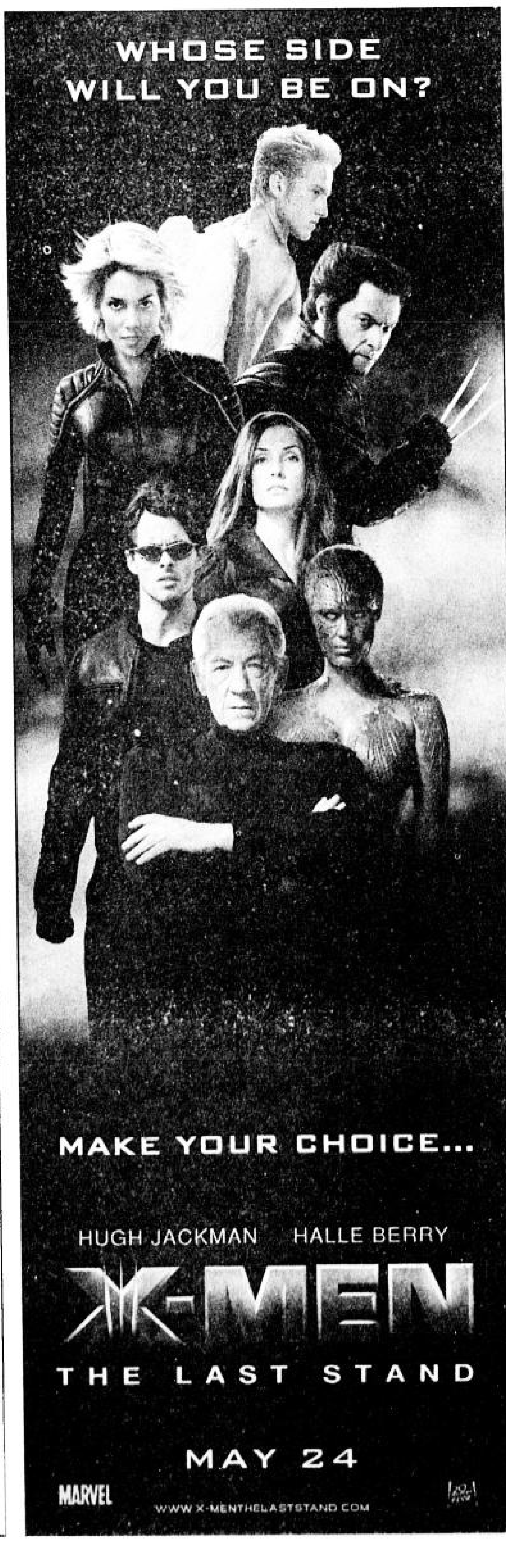

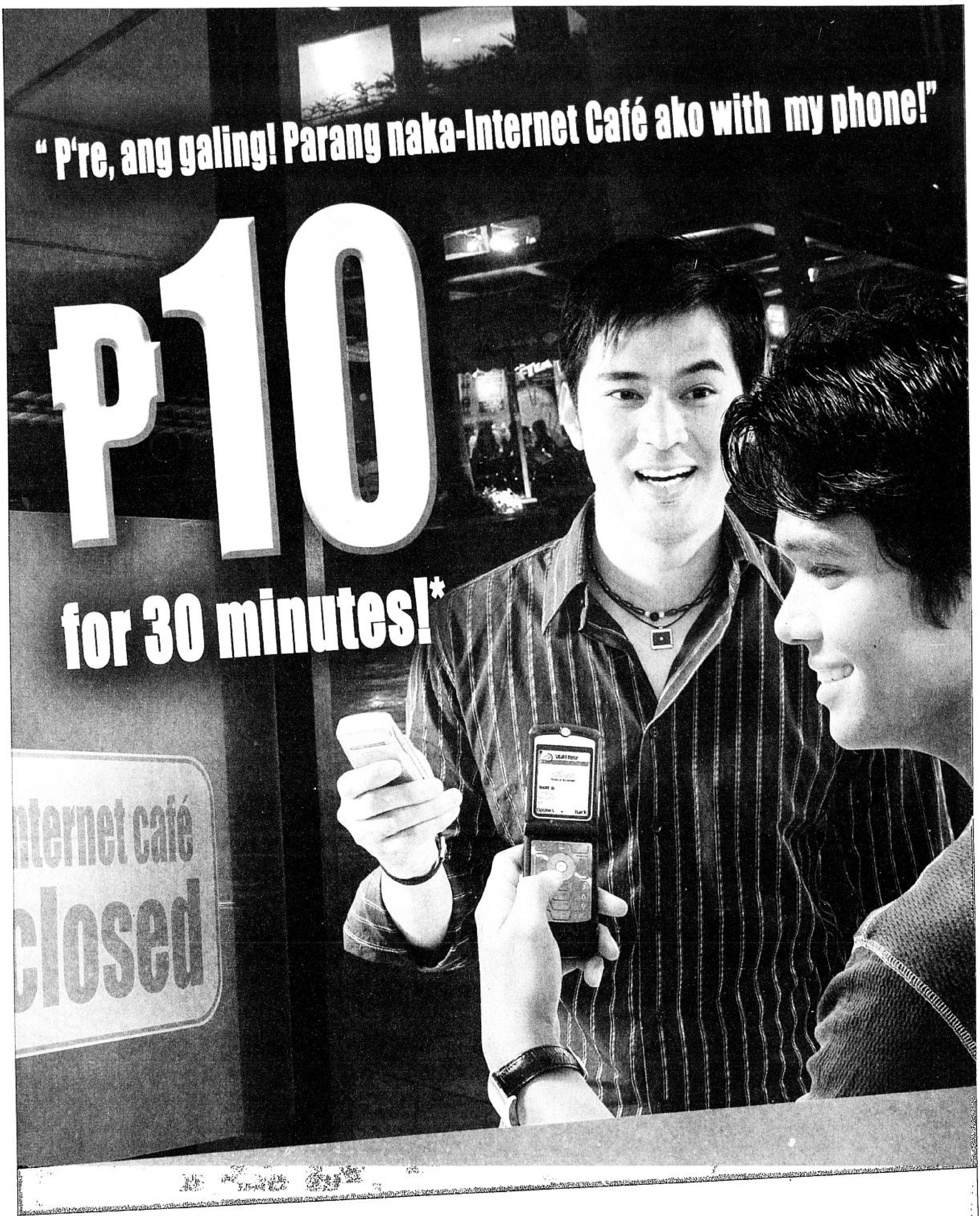
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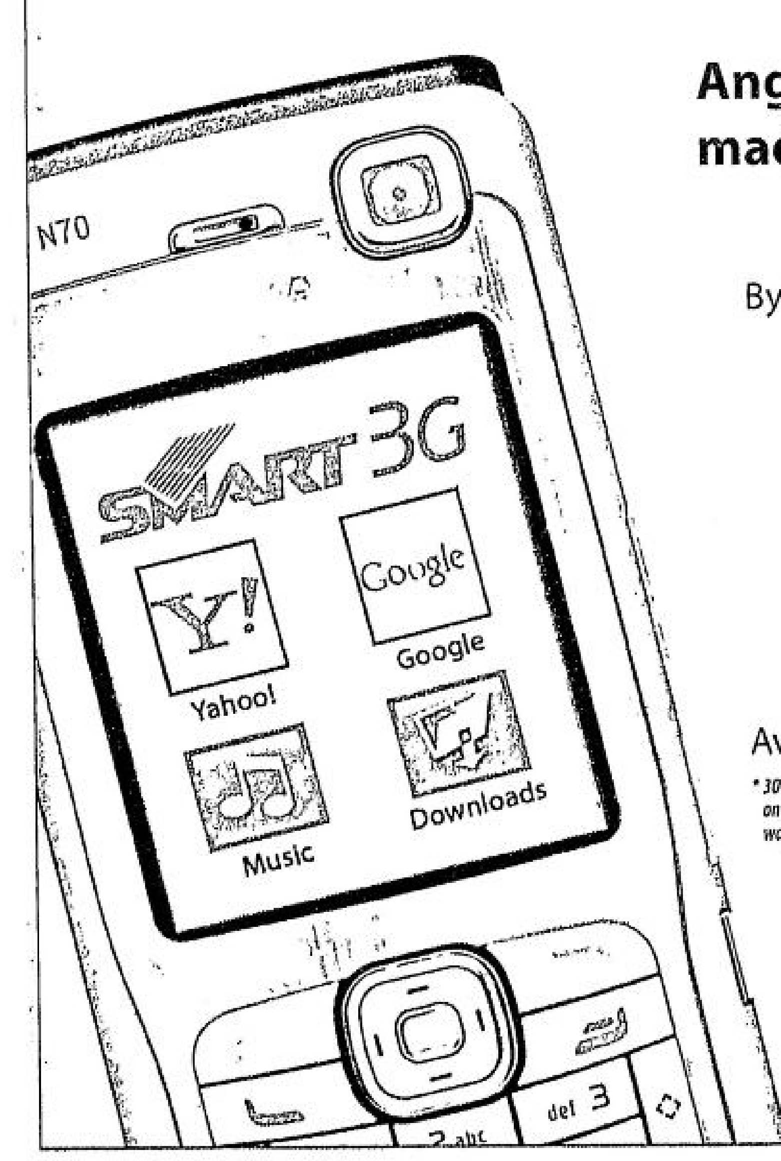
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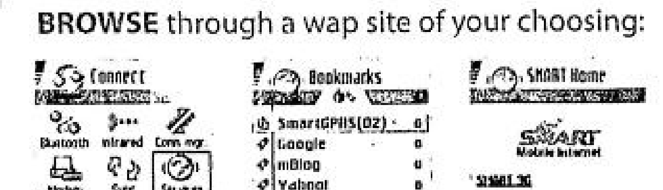
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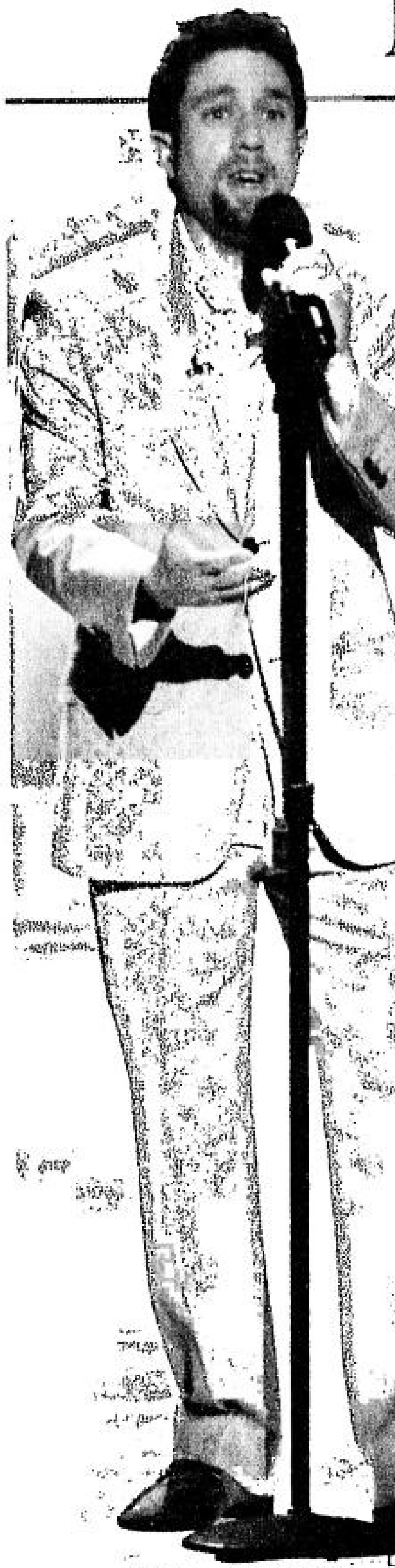
# He had a feeling his time was up

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes


ELLIOTT Yamin

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS have it that there wasn't a dry eye at the CBS Studio, where "American Idol" was held Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila).

We might report back that neither was there a dry eye in living rooms around the Philippines where we know that the reality talent search had been followed from Day 1.

As this season's second runner-up Elliott Yamin bid the audience goodbye, having landed the least number of votes this week, the camera panned to judge Paula Abdul, who was shedding tears.

Just a few days earlier, she had admitted in an interview that she was rooting for this finalist from Richmond, Virginia.

During this exclusive interview made possible by Star World, the 27-year-old talked eagerly about how the show transformed him.

"Before this contest," Elliott said, "I was just starting to find my way as a person. I've since become confident. I've accomplished what I set out to do. I can honestly say now that I know what I'll be doing in the next few years."

The elimination of the blue-eyed soul singer leaves Taylor Hicks, 29, and Katharine McPhee, 21, to face off in the final showdown on Tuesday, May 23 (Wednesday in the Philippines).

This last round was a close fight, as the next-day results showed, and Elliott, in the very least, had been "flattered to be in [such] a tight race."

**INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE**

But, he added, "I had a feeling all day and all night that my time was up."

When asked about his mother Claudette, Elliott's voice faltered.

"I'm so happy to have gone through this entire experience with her," he said. "I think we all, as kids, strive to make our parents proud."

Claudette was a fixture in the studio audience. "She exudes this pride and love for me when she's out there," Elliott said. "It fueled me."

**Why do you think your story touched so many fans?**

I'm emotional. It kind of runs in my blood. Maybe because I'm an underdog. Maybe I came across as a kid who came from nowhere. I guess they know I've beaten a few odds here and there—I think people can identify with that.

**Why is there such a strong connection between you and Paula?**

I think maybe she loves my voice and enjoys my singing.

**Can you tell us about your girlfriend, Amanda?**

We have a great relationship and I'm looking forward to getting back in her arms sooner than later but no, we're not engaged, contrary to rumors.

HE HAD A FEELING/ A3-5

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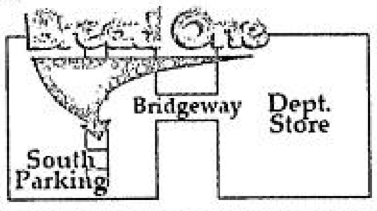

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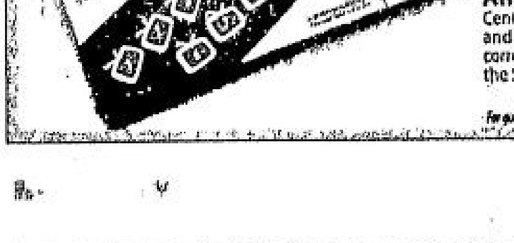

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CLOWNING around with Boy Alano and Rosemarie Sonora in the 1960s

German Moreno considers his halcyon days in Clover, the Manila Grand Opera House and Sampaguita as the best years of his life

YESTERDAY

IN "KONDESANG Basahan" with Nora Aunor in the early 1970s

# That's ... Kuya Germs!

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**
**Photos by Romy Homillada**
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOWELFUND FILM INSTITUTE

WHENEVER HE'S IN THE OLD Manila area, German Moreno makes certain to pass by where Clover Theater once stood, "on the corner of Echague (now Carlos Palanca Street), near MacArthur Bridge and Plaza Goiti in Quiapo."

A rush of memories floods his mind each time: "Long lines of fans waiting to buy tickets, big names on the marquee ... I can't help getting teary-eyed; I'm very sentimental."

Along with Dolphy and Pilita Corrales, Moreno is one of the most popular and most resilient graduates of *bodabil* who eventually crossed over to the movies, radio and television.

Like most Filipinos of the wartime generation, his young life was fraught with drama.

"My father Jose Moreno was run over by an American vehicle during the Liberation," he remembers. He was only five years old. "My family didn't know that he had been confined at the American Hospital. On the ninth day, my mother Aurora Molina-Moreno found him. He died the same day, as if he was just waiting for my mother."

His Clover stint is a favorite subject that often crops up on Moreno's GMA 7 late-night show "Master Showman: Walang Tulugan" and on his noontime radio show of the same title on dzBB.

In 1957, he was hired as janitor in the theater. "I was recommended by an aunt who was married to the captain of the fire brigade."

He recalled that William Brown, the theater owner, couldn't say no to the fire captain's wife. "I was hired even if I was only 17. But I wasn't listed in the payroll because I was underage."

Brown, Moreno relates, was a close friend of *bodabil* legend Katy de la Cruz.

For five years, he labored anonymously, until he was promoted as "curtain raiser" or *telonero*.

Between mopping floors and raising curtains, he was "discovered" by stage director Victor Sevilla.

Moreno recalls, "He was looking for someone thin and *mestizo* to play Jesus Christ. He asked me to take my shirt off and when he saw my ribs, he asked the makeup artist to put a beard on me."

For his stage debut, he was nailed to the cross!

"Usually, we changed the drama show every week, but our Passion play was extended and ran for three weeks," he proudly notes. "After that, though, I went back to being a janitor."

WITH nephew John Nite

WITH Susan Roces and Lito Calzado, Iza's dad

His salary as janitor was P25 a week. "That's P100 a month. I also got one day off in a month."

As actor in Clover, he earned P10.

He also performed in town fiesta shows in the provinces. "In our act, [comedienne] Aruray spat water on my face and for that I got P5."

It was a tough way to earn a living.

"Times were harder in the 1950s, but if you ask me, I prefer my old life. We were happier then," he waxes nostalgic.

His perseverance was rewarded with the trust given to him by Spanish-Portuguese dancer-impresario Don Jose Zarah, Clover producer.

At his peak in Clover, Moreno worked as Zarah's all-around assistant. "I also manned the ticket booths. Orchestra tickets were 80 centavos; balcony, one peso; and lodge, one peso and twenty centavos."

When Clover closed shop, Cecilia Dayrit, the daughter of Don Toribio Teodoro, asked Moreno "to help the Manila Grand Opera House by producing shows."

"The Teodoros owned Ang Tibay shoes," Moreno volunteers. "They asked me to pitch ideas. I learned a lot from Don Jose Zarah and it helped me as show producer at the Opera House."

By the time *bodabil* made its final bow in the early 1960s, Moreno had moved to Sampaguita Pictures—where he had a dizzying run as resident comic, sidekick and choreographer.

"I would direct musical numbers with Tita de Villa," he reports. De Villa later enjoyed a second wind as the villainess on the TV soap "Gulong ng Palad" in the 1970s.

## P75 per movie

As a Sampaguita contract player, his first talent fee was P75 per movie.

"Then it was raised to P100, then to P150. On my fourth year, my salary reached P1,500," he relates.

He also had the chance to play lead roles in Sampaguita: in "Papaw, Mamaw" with Lilian Laing and "O Kay Laking Iskandalo" with Chichay.

With his partner Boy Alano, Moreno also appeared in a string of hits with Gloria Romero, Susan Roces and the Stars of '66.

"We were always the comic relief," he quips. Their job was to make people laugh, on and off the set.

"There was a time we made two movies back to back," he remembers.

From the set of the musical "Jukebox Jamboree" in the Sampaguita Studios in Quezon City, they shuttled at dawn to Bataan, for the war movie."Mga Kanyon ng Koregidor." "They called it *lagare*."

They literally roughed it, riding a six by six American truck that had no seats.

"We were standing all throughout the ride to Corregidor," he gasps.

In the middle of a fight scene, they received word that Dr. Jose Perez, Sampaguita big boss, wanted them back in Manila—*pronto*!

"So the director decided to kill us in the war movie," he guffaws. "We had had no sleep then. We left Manila early morning and were back by the end of the day." (Thus, his catchphrase: "Walang Tulugan.")

By the early 1970s, he was also directing movies for Sampaguita. "My biggest hit was 'Guy and Pip.' It broke box-office records when it was shown in Avenue Theater for the first Manila Film Festival. It was the comeback movie of the Nora Aunor-Tirso Cruz III loveteam."

GERMAN'S "Payaso" tux and clown figurine in the Mowelfund museum

He also made fine use of his Clover and Sampaguita training, when he hosted the Sunday noontime shows "Germside," "Germspesyal" and "GMA Supershow" which ran for 19 years from the late 1970s until the 1990s.

In the 1980s, he also masterminded the youth show "That's Entertainment," which served as the template for current talent searches "Starstruck" and "Star Circle Quest."

"In those days it was a novelty for a local TV show to have a new motif and set every week—from Filipiniana one week to Broadway the next. I patterned the concepts after our Clover productions," he notes.

He's still at it. "Walang Tulugan" (late Saturday nights) still exudes a distinct *bodabil* vibe.

These days, Moreno also hosts QTV's "Ginintuang Telon," a showcase of Sampaguita movies that also features recollections of the stars of those vintage films.

"I interviewed my friends Gloria Romero, Nikki Ross and Barbara Perez on that show. We had fun reminiscing," he points out.

Now, who christened him *Kuya Germs*?

The honor belongs to two movie queens he had worked with in Sampaguita.

"It was Susan Roces who first called me Germy, but it was Nora Aunor who shortened it to Germs," he says. With a smile.

ON "GMA Supershow" with Sharon Cuneta and Zsazsa Padilla in the early 1980s

WITH STAR awardees (from left): Vilma Santos, Roderick Paulate, Sharon Cuneta, Vic Sotto, Alza Seguerra and Coney Reyes in the early 1990s

---

# ROUNDUP

## 'Minsan Pa'

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Minsan Pa (One Moment More)" has been invited to the "14th Festival of Festivals 2006" to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from June 23 to 29.

This is according to festival director Sergey Grigorov, who sent word last week to Lawyer Joji Alonso of MLR Films, producer of "Minsan Pa."

"We plan to show [the film] on June 27, and probably one more time later," Grigorov said.

"Minsan Pa," made entirely in Cebu and in eloquent Cebuano, tells of a lovelorn preschool teacher Luna (Ara Mina) and tour guide Jeremiah (Jomari Yllana).

The movie was featured in the "Spring Showcase" of the Hawaii International Film Festival in March, and was among the Filipino films to be featured at the First Filipino Film Festival in Shanghai, China, also in March.

"Festival of Festivals" is Russia's largest non-competitive festival of recent outstanding works of international and Russian cinema. The festival is licensed under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), according to its website www.filmfest.ru

*Marinel R. Cruz*

## 'Sayaw'

Paul Soriano's independent short film "Sayaw" will have its first-ever screening on May 23 at My Cinema in Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

"Sayaw" is a poetic look into the life of an aspiring boxer. The short film is produced by Soriano and Mark Victor under Holycowboy Productions. The first of three screenings starts at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

*Marinel R. Cruz*

## Cannes kickoff

Cannes, France—Competition at the Cannes Film Festival got off to a strong start on Thursday with two films focusing on pivotal historical events which blew their countries onto a different path.

HOWARD

"Summer Palace" by Chinese director Lou Ye is a complex love story set to break taboos at home not only for its erotic sex scenes, but also for its handling of the crackdown of the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests.

The jury was also watching British director Ken Loach's entry, "The Wind That Shakes The Barley," already heavily tipped as a favorite for the Palme d'Or, which focuses on Ireland's struggle for independence from Britain.

A star-studded opening night on Wednesday with a host of stars including the full cast of Ron Howard's controversial "The Da Vinci Code" brought Hollywood-style glamour to the southern French resort.

*AFP*

## Deadly twist

Los Angeles— Fox's "The O.C." closed its third season with a deadly twist.

Marissa Cooper, played by Mischa Barton, was killed in a car crash on Thursday night's episode.

Barton's character was central to the show, which follows four wealthy Newport Beach, California, teens through the emotional ups and downs of high-school life.

## 'America's Got Talent'

Los Angeles— "America's Got Talent," the new TV contest that promises to feature a grab bag of singers, dancers, comedians and more, has an eclectic panel of judges to match.

British media figure Piers Morgan, David Hasselhoff ("Baywatch"), and Brandy ("Moesha") will be scrutinizing aspiring stars for the NBC series set to debut next month, the network said Thursday.

The program, from "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell and FremantleMedia, the company that produces Fox's hit singing contest, will be hosted by Regis Philbin.

"We have three different judges from three different backgrounds. Expect the unexpected," Cowell said in a statement Thursday.

The variety contest begins with a two-hour episode on Wednesday, June 21. AP

## Scorsese docus

Washington—Director Martin Scorsese is best known for dramas such as "Raging Bull," "Taxi Driver" and

"Goodfellas," but he will be honored next month for his nonfiction films, organizers of the Silverdocs documentary film festival said on Thursday.

Scorsese's documentary work includes the classic rock-concert film "The Last Waltz," a seven-part musical history, "The Blues," and "Bob Dylan: No Direction Home."

Organizers said, "His stories about great musical artists really help us understand our American musical culture and national consensus."

*Reuters*

# The Cascades back June 16 to launch world tour

THE CASCADES WILL BE BACK in Manila in June for a series of performances that officially launches its 2006 international concert tour.

Dubbed "The Cascades 2006 World Tour," the three-month, 16-city, five-nation tour to be produced by Steve O'Neal Productions, premieres June 16, 9 p.m., at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Other shows: Subic Freeport, June 17; Iloilo City, June 18; Bacolod City, June 23; Singapore, June 25; Hard Rock Café-Makati, June 28; Davao City, June 30; and Cagayan de Oro City, July 1;

Hong Kong, July 7; Bangkok, July 19; then Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Texas and New Jersey in August.

Call 911-5555.

## All-kids group

The Centermates, a song-and-dance group composed of five kids, is being launched by the Center for Pop Music Philippines in mall shows this month.

The group's members are: Randell Panganiban, Migs Raymundo, Christelle Peig, Jasmin Salvo and Carlyn Ocampo.

SITTI

They performed last May 14 at Ever Gotesco along Commonwealth Avenue in QC. Today, they will be in Starmall Edsa; tomorrow at SM City Fairview; May 23 at SM Valenzuela and May 26 at Sm City Sucat Parañaque.

The Centermates is managed by Butch Albarracin, founder and CEO of the CPMP Inc.

## SHOW TIME

### Today

Ara Mina at Ratsky Morato

Join the Club at Robinson's Place Dasmariñas

May Villar at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

### Tomorrow

Blue Jean Junkie at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Myla Galang at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

### May 23

K and The Boxers at Zirkoh Greenhills

Margarita at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

Jojo A All the Wayat RJ Guitar Bar

### May 24

Mossimo Bikini Summit Grand Prix at the NBC Tent

Jojo A All the Wayat RJ Guitar Bar

K and The Boxers at Klownz Araneta

Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

CENTERMATES

Jeli Mateo at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge; 9 p.m.

### May 25

Jennifer Palor at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

Jojo A All the Wayat RJ Guitar Bar

### May 26

Silver: The Songs of Vehnee Saturno at the Araneta Coliseum with Jay-R, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista, Juris Fernandez and guests Ella Mae Saison, The CompanY and Martin Nievera

Marissa Sanchez at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Hotdog with Dimsum at Suburbia Malate

RJ 'n Friends with Moonstrucks at RJ Guitar Bar

CASCADES

### May 27

Erik Mana in a live magic show at the Music Museum; 8 p.m.

Rufa Mae Quinto in her first major concert at the Aliw Theater

The CompanY at Hyatt Regency Manila's Calesa Bar

Side A at Metropolis Star Alabang

Ara Mina at Ratsky Malate

Join the Club at Robinson's Metro East

K and The Boxers at Ratsky Malate

Christian Bautista and Jennylyn Mercado at Starmall Edsa; 3 p.m.

### May 28

May Villar at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

### May 29

Myla Galang at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

### May 30

Jojo A All the Wayat RJ Guitar Bar

K and The Boxers at Zirkoh Greenhills

Margarita at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Boulvar Lounge

### May 31

RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge; 9 p.m.

K and The Boxers at Klownz Araneta

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB R-18 11:45, 2.50, 5.55, 9:00PM
3 THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB R-18 12.30, 3.35, 6.40, 9.45PM
2 THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB R-18 1 20, 4 25, 7 30,10:35PM LMF
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| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 THE DA VINCI CODE | 2 THE DA VINCI CODE | 3 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 POSEIDON | 5 OVER THE HEDGE | 6 THE DA VINCI CODE | 7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 THE DA VINCI CODE | 2 THE DA VINCI CODE | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:40, 4:50, 8:00, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 POSEIDON 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 OVER THE HEDGE 1:50, 3:45, 7:45, 9:30, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 THE DA VINCI CODE 11:20, 2:30, 8:50, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
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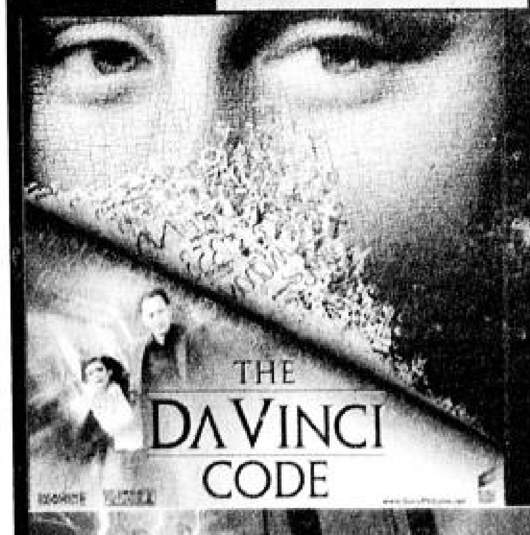

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# Ma-Yi production nominated for Drama Desk award

From page A3-6

structive and even ironic recollections of the enormous success that another religion-based movie, "The Passion of the Christ," also enjoyed some years ago.

In fact, it can be said that "Code" is the opposite, negative but mirror image of "Passion": Mel Gibson's film boosted Jesus' divinity; "Code" disputes it.

And yet, both movies, albeit in radically contrasting ways, make viewers reexamine their faith—or lack of it. If the reinvestigation plays out in a positive way, it could even have a beneficial effect in some people's lives.

Let's hope that happens, because "Code's" more negative tendencies have already wreaked too much psychic damage. We can understand why some people have gotten so agitated over it, pro and con, but let's all remind ourselves: It's only a movie after all.

## On Cartoon Network

ONGOING until May 26, Cartoon Network screens Tiny TV, a special programming block for preschoolers and moms. Weekdays at 10 a.m., "Oswald" stars a blue, friendly octopus all set to experience the bright lights of the big city and embark on interesting adventures with his friends. The series focuses on the experiences and problems that kids face.

At 10:30 a.m., "Firehouse Tales" zeroes in on Red, a young fire truck who wants to make a big difference in the world. However, he must go to school before he can pursue his dream.

## 'Get Smart'

THE HIT COMEDY detective series, "Get Smart," is being replayed on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Star World. Set in 1965, the show highlights the blunders of the inept, underpaid and overzealous Agent 86, Maxwell Smart. He works for CONTROL, an agency whose mission is to protect the world from the agents of KAOS.

## 'Just for Kicks'

THE ASIAN premiere of "Just for Kicks," Nickelodeon's new live-action comedy series, will be at 6 p.m on June 0.

Developed by **Whoopi Goldberg** in collaboration with **Tom Leonardis, Dave Brookwell** and **Sean McNamara**, the show revolves around four strong and independent teenage girls from different ethnic backgrounds. They belong to an elite soccer team, the Power Strikers. The show promotes a positive and active lifestyle, and deals with teen issue like friendship, independence, boys, body image and bras.

It will air regularly every weekend at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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4:50 / 5:15 / 5:50 / 6:25
7:00 / 7:25 / 7:50 / 8:15
8:50 / 9:25 / 10:00 / 10:25 / 10:50

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THE DA VINCI CODE
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THE DA VINCI CODE
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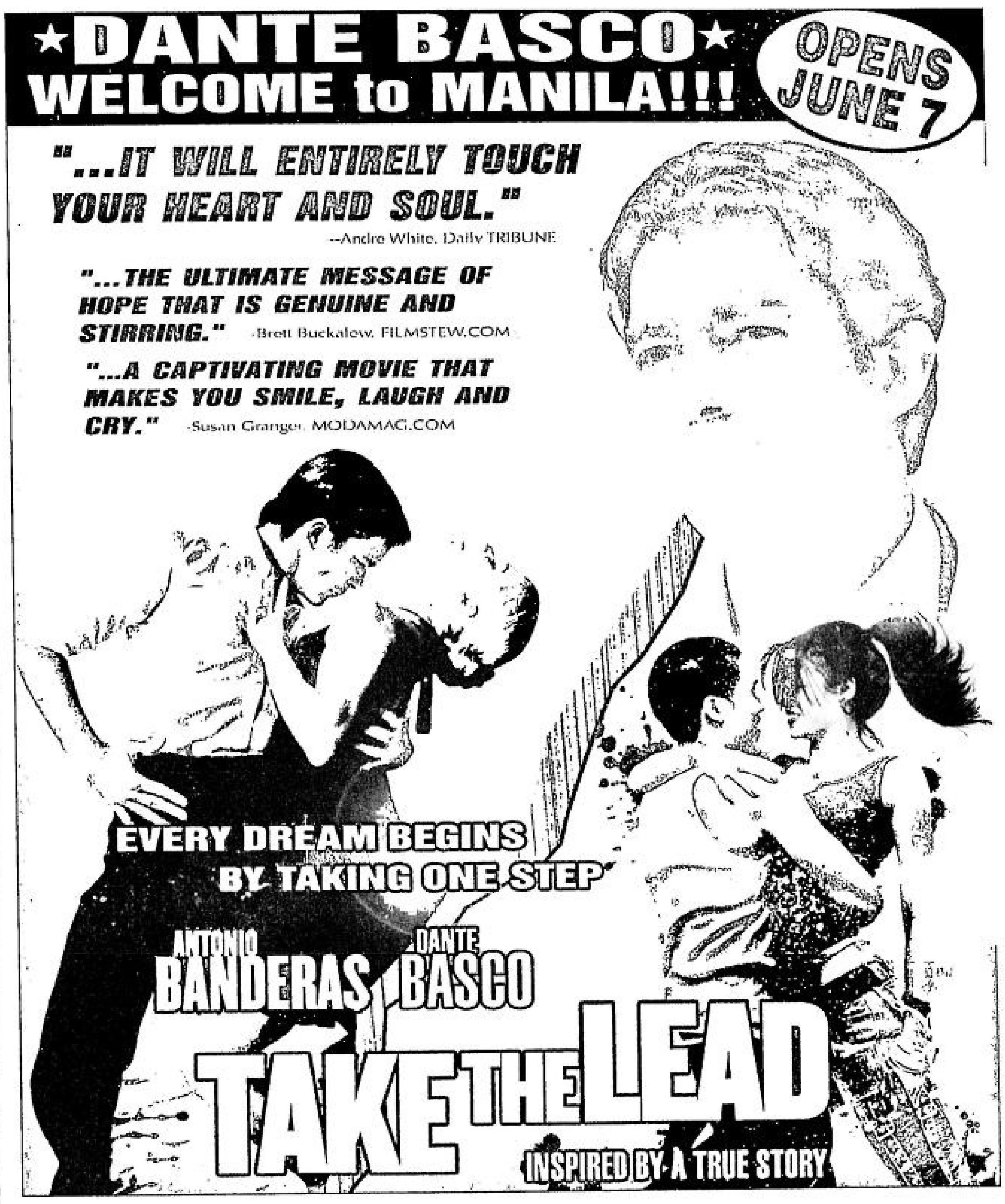

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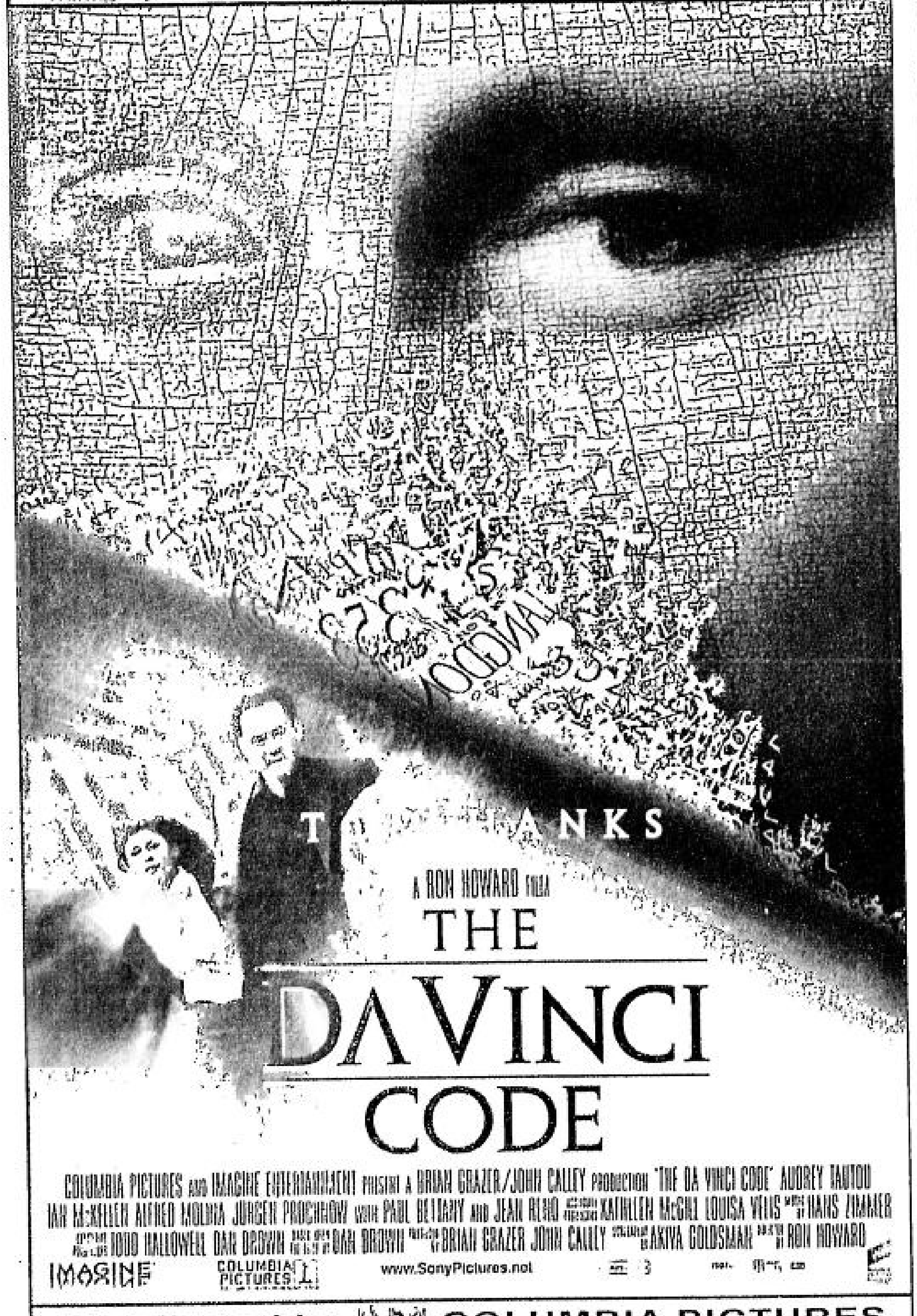

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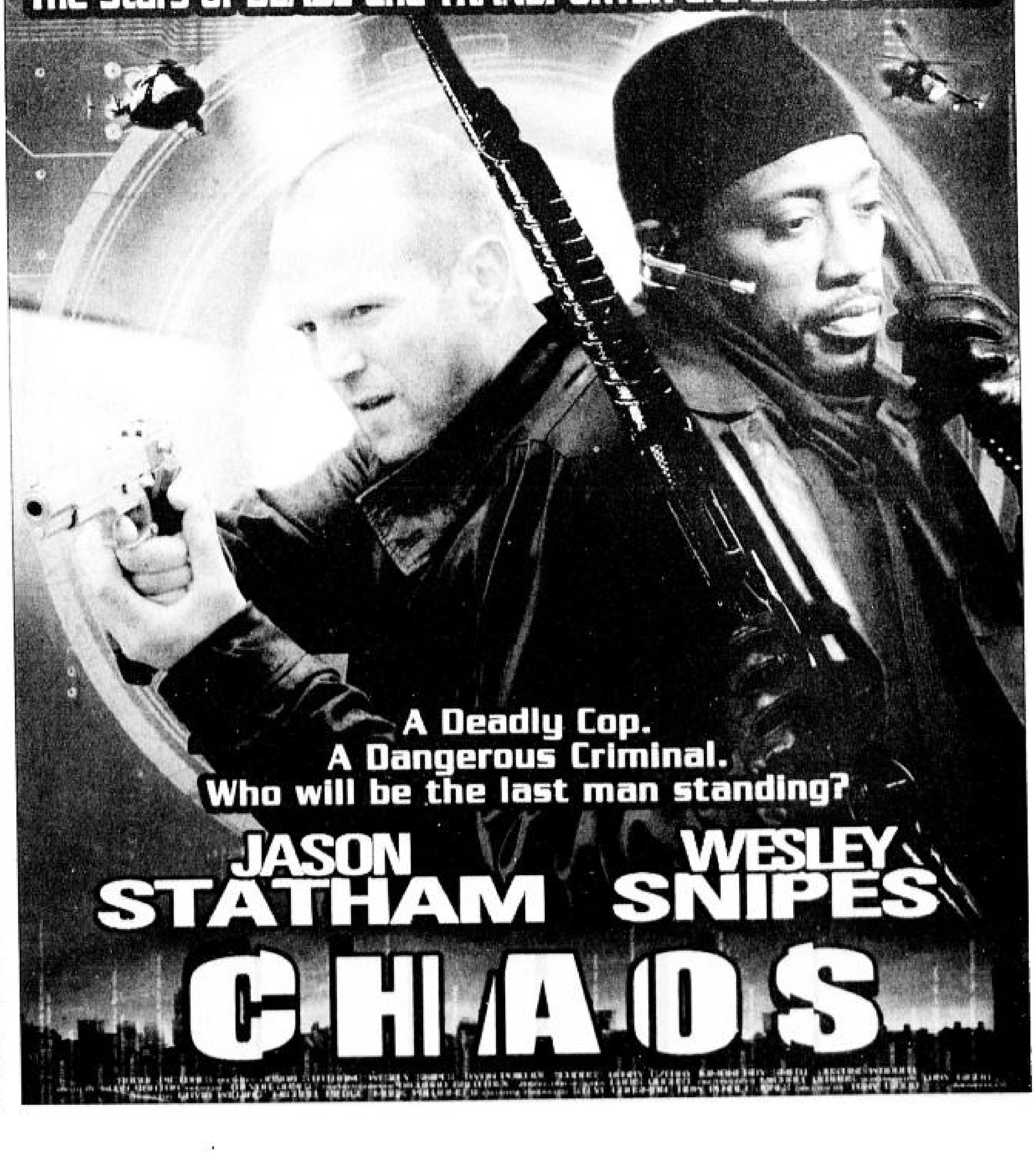


A Deadly Cop.
A Dangerous Criminal.
Who will be the last man standing?
JASON STATHAM WESLEY SNIPES
CHAOS

GOODBYE to fans ... for now.

# He had a feeling his time was up

From page A3-1

**After your third song on performance night, Simon pretty much sounded like he was saying goodbye. How did that affect you?**

He kind of sounded like he was saying goodbye numerous times in the past, so I had grown quite accustomed to that.

**What would your future album look like?**

I'd like it to have a real soulful, R&B kind of sound, though I wouldn't be afraid to try another genre. I think I've proven that I am versatile.

**When did it occur to you that you might actually make it pretty far?**

After my "Moody's" performance—not necessarily because of Simon's [approving] comment, but just the way I performed the song. I think that was transitional for me, the first time that I kind of separated myself from boyhood to manhood, so to speak.

**You looked like the happiest contestant, smiling and laughing more than anyone else. We're you really that happy?**

Absolutely, man. This was just the best thing I'd ever done for myself.

**Did you and Taylor bond over being southerners?**

We bonded over everything, man. Taylor's one of the funniest people I've ever met on this entire planet. He definitely knows how to keep the gut busting and keep things fun. I'm going to miss our everyday camaraderie.

**How do you like the look that the show's stylists created for you?**

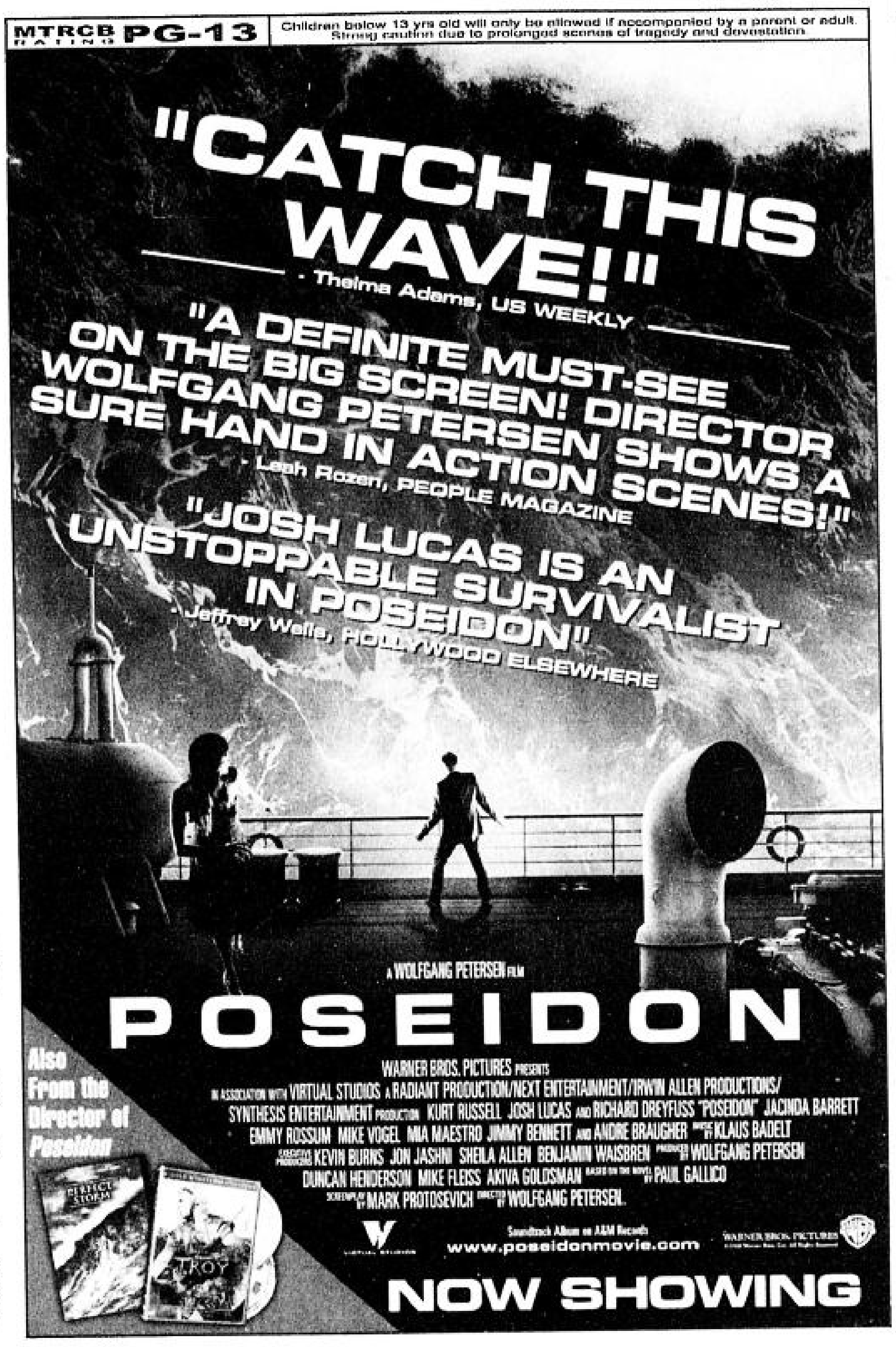
I love it, man. I love the clothes I've been draped in, and so on. All I did was grow out my hair. I never knew there was this much hair to begin with. It's the longest it's ever been. It's cool.

**What's the best piece of advice you got from anyone throughout the season?**

Stevie Wonder told us how important it was to connect with the audience and make every song you sing your own. That meant the world to me, for the simple fact that it came from Stevie Wonder, and I was in his presence. Plus the fact that he said that I should choose [singing] as a profession—it doesn't get better than that.

> 'All kids set out to make their parents proud'

*(Catch the performance finale on Starworld this Wednesday, May 24 (Manila time) 5 p.m., with replays at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Grand finale will be aired here in real time on Thursday, May 25 at 8 a.m., with replays at 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.)*



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution due to prolonged scenes of tragedy and devastation

"CATCH THIS WAVE!"
- Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY

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- Leah Rozen, PEOPLE MAGAZINE

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| THE DA VINCI CODE<br>R18<br>1:15,4:15,7:15,10:15 | POSEIDON<br>PG13<br>1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15 | THE DA VINCI CODE<br>R18<br>11:30,2:15,5:15,8:15 |

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CINEMA 5 THE DA VINCI CODE 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 R18

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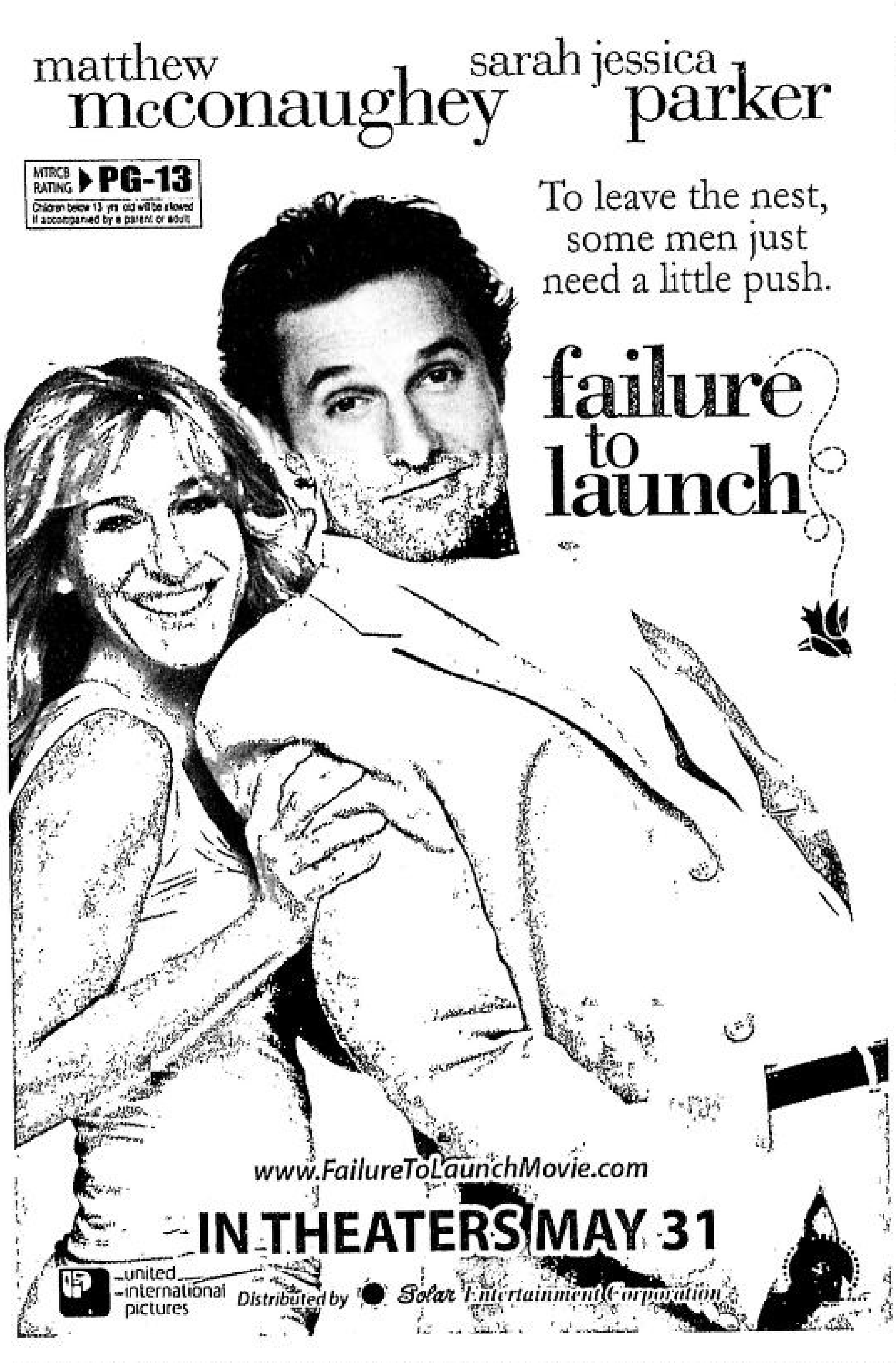

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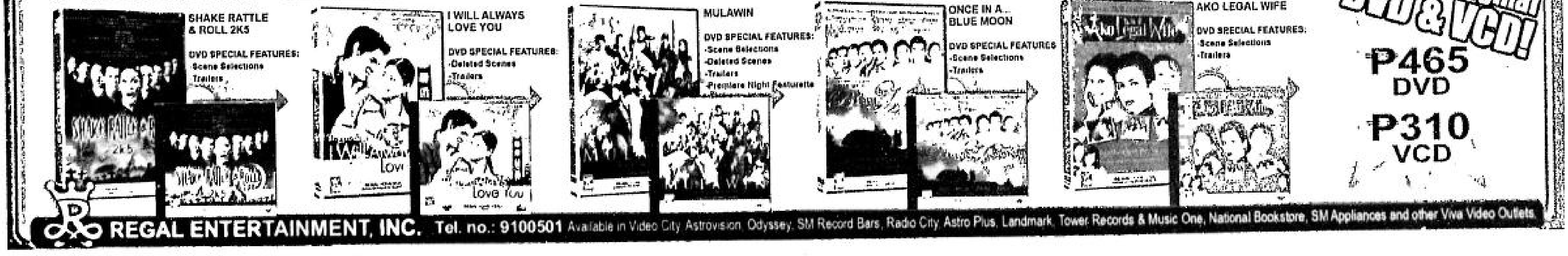

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# Ma-Yi production nominated for Drama Desk award

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

HERE'S GOOD NEWS ALL THE way from New York City: The Ma-Yi (Asian-American) Theater Company (**Jorge Z. Ortoll** is executive director), has received its first nomination for the prestigious Drama Desk theater awards.

Its acclaimed production, "No Foreigners Beyond This Point," has been nominated for Outstanding Play." **Warren Leight's** play began the 17th season for Ma-Yi. Leignt revised the original script with the company, presenting a workshop staging last August, followed by its Off-Broadway debut.

**Loy Arcenas** directed the August reading and September production of "No Foreigners." The acting ensemble included **Ron Domingo, Laura Kai Chan, Wai Ching Ho, Francis Jue, Karen Tsen Lee, Abby Royle, Ean Sheehy,** and **Henry Yuk.**

Credits: scenic design by Arcenas, costume design by **Carol Bailey,** lighting design by **Japhy Weideman,** and sound design by **Fabian Obispo.**

Other productions nominated for the "Outstanding Play" Drama Desk award are **Alan Bennett's** "The History Boys," **David Hare's** "Stuff Happens," **Martin McDonagh's** "The Lieutenant of Inishmore," **Terrence McNally's** "Dedication or the Stuff of Dreams," and **Craig Wright's** "The Pavilion."

The winner of the award will be announced on May 21 at Lincoln Center, during the 51st Drama Desk Awards Ceremony, hosted by **Harvey Fierstein.**

In the past, Ma-Yi has received nine Obie (Off-Broadway) awards, most recently for its production of "The Romance of Magno Rubio," cited as "one of the best plays of the New York theater season" by the New York Times.

Ma-Yi is doing well, indeed.

In addition, Ma-Yi is proud to promote and support projects by members of its Writers' Lab: **Qui Nguyen's** "Living Dead in Denmark," presented starting May 21 at Center Stage by the Vampire Cowboys Theater Company, and **Suzanne Lee's** "Worth," presented starting June 3 at Urban Stages by the Genesis Theater Group.

And ongoing until May 30 is Ma-Yi's community partnership with Channel 13 WNET for their Due East series—programming that celebrates the rich culture and diversity of Asian and Pacific American Heritage.

Channel 13 is airing programs that encompass stories from all over Asia, as well as from Asians living in America.

Finally, Ma-Yi is participating in the first national conference devoted to Asian American Theater. Titled "Next Big Bang: The Explosion of Asian American Theater," the conference will convene in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles from June 11 to 20.

## Exemplary performances

More than 200 theater professionals, educators and artists will attend the three-day event. Ma-Yi's own **Jorge Ortoll** will chair a panel entitled "Visioning Asian American Theater in the 21st Century."

The conference will showcase exemplary performances, and plan for the first National Asian American Theater Festival in 2007 in New York City.

The festival is being spearheaded by Ma-Yi, Pan Asia Rep and the National Asian American Theater Company.

More good news from New York: Filmmaker **Ditsi Carolino** and **Nana Buxani** are screening their award-winning documentary, "Bunso," at the ImaginAsian Theater on May 24.

The poignant film is about three boys struggling to survive in a crowded jail in the Philippines alongside adult rapists and murderers. The film takes viewers into the surreal world of children caught between extreme poverty and the law, communicating its deep insights in a rare mix of innocence and street smarts, pain and humor.

Awards: Best Director, One World International Film Festival, Prague. Grand Prix, EBS International Film Festival, Seoul. Youth Jury Prize, Perspektiv: Nuremberg Human Rights Film Festival. And Best Short Film, Gawad Urian, Manila.

Our support of Ditsi's work goes back a long way, so we're happy to see that her films are being recognized all over the world.

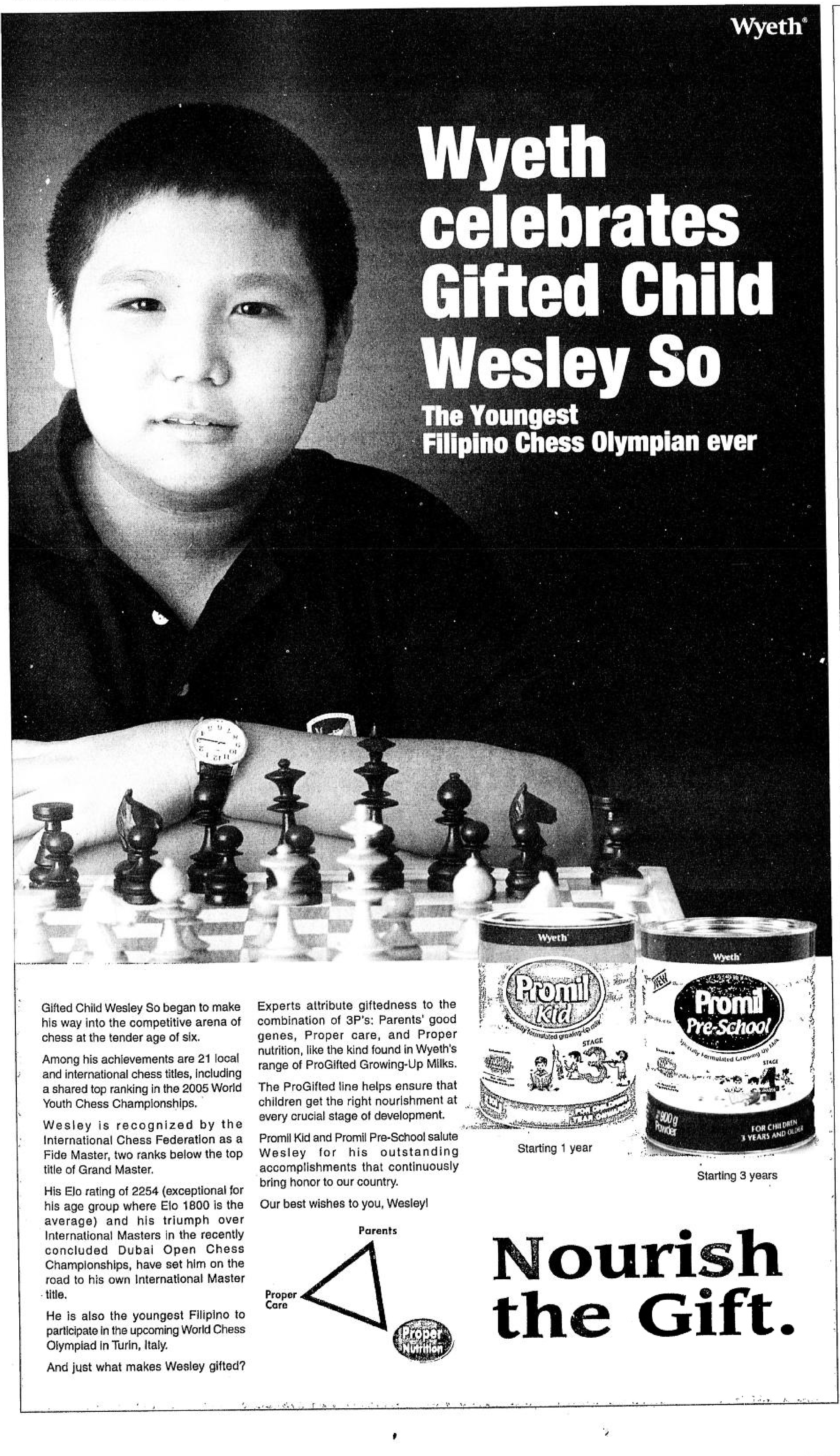
## 'Da Vinci' compared to 'Passion'

THE LONG wait for "The Da Vinci Code" is over. How will it fare in the estimation of viewers?

With all of the protracted and tempestuous controversy that's been swirling around it for months, it'll probably become a should-see movie for many people, and end up as the year's biggest blockbuster.

In this light, it brings up in-

MA-YI/ A3-4



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Wyeth celebrates Gifted Child Wesley So

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Gifted Child Wesley So began to make his way into the competitive arena of chess at the tender age of six.

Among his achievements are 21 local and international chess titles, including a shared top ranking in the 2005 World Youth Chess Championships.

Wesley is recognized by the International Chess Federation as a Fide Master, two ranks below the top title of Grand Master.

His Elo rating of 2254 (exceptional for his age group where Elo 1800 is the average) and his triumph over International Masters in the recently concluded Dubai Open Chess Championships, have set him on the road to his own International Master title.

He is also the youngest Filipino to participate in the upcoming World Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy.

And just what makes Wesley gifted?

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ProGifted Growing-Up Milks Salute Wesley So, Youngest RP Chess Olympian

ProGifted Growing-Up Milks send their congratulations to Wesley So who made it to the Philippine team slated to participate in the World Chess Olympiad. The event will be held in Turin, Italy from May 19 to June 5. Following his astounding success at a qualifier tournament, 12-year-old Wesley joins Grand Masters Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre, and Joey Antonio, as well as National Open Champion Darwin Laylo and Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling.

Wesley recently arrived from Dubai, UAE where he participated in the 8th Dubai Open Chess Championships. Entering the tournament as a Fide Master, a title awarded by the World Chess Federation, Wesley beat International Masters Sale Srdjan of Croatia and Fouad El Taher of Egypt among others, paving the way to clinching his own International Master title. The Dubai tournament served as his preparation for the more grueling Olympiad.

Wesley is no overnight success; he started playing chess when he was 6 years old. His list of achievements includes various championships in both local and international arenas, among these is a shared top ranking in the World Youth Chess Championships held last year.

This whiz kid from Bacoor, Cavite had an early start at a successful career, but it may not have been possible without his father's guidance. William So taught what he knew and helped cultivate what Wesley cites as his driving force – his love for the game of chess. "Gusto ko po talaga ang chess, at sumasaya ako dito," Wesley says.

Aside from proper guidance, Wesley's parents were also careful in giving him the proper nourishment. The ProGifted Growing-Up Milks played a part in Wesley's sustenance during his growing up years.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Scrapbooking fever reaches RP /B2

Farmers go into direct selling /B3

*The Philippines' Biggest Shopping Mall Opens Today in Pasay City!*

*Turn to section C, Lifestyle pages 1-8*

# Legacy of '30s Filipina entrepreneur

## Woman ahead of her time sets up shop that's 70 yrs old and counting

**A PIONEERING** woman who went into different ventures to support her four children.

**(Inset) ASUNCION** Quiray Abiva started a business with her husband in the 30s.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE TYPICAL FILIPINA during the 1930s was a homemaker who tended the house and the kids. Rare was a woman who worked and rarer still was a woman who went into entrepreneurship.

Asuncion Quiray Abiva was one such woman.

A schoolteacher in the 1930s, Asuncion, together with husband Luis Sr., also a teacher, published reviewer manuals for civil service exams of patrolmen and junior and senior teachers under a firm called Abiva Press in 1936.

The husband and wife team were really entrepreneurs. They also started a ferry business from Manila to Subic. But they gave up on this business.

The publishing business, however, grew quickly. It started as a one-room affair on Evangelista Street in

LEGACY/B2

**FROM A ONE-ROOM** affair in 1936, Abiva goest into an integrated operation with offices in other cities.

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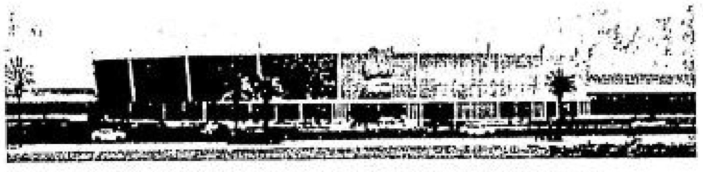
**THE MUCH AWAITED** opening of the SM Mall of Asia. Located on a 60-hectare property overlooking Manila Bay, the 386,000-square-meter mall is envisioned as the premier destination mall in the Asia-Pacific region. The complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways. The main mall includes shopping and dining establishments, the food court, and the country's first Olympic-size ice skating rink. The South Parking Building houses the SM Department Store, while the North Parking Building includes the SM Hypermarket and other establishments. The Entertainment Center Building, which offers a spectacular view of the bay from its row of trendy restaurants, and 10 theaters including a director's club, and the country's first IMAX theater.

## *Henry Sy Sr.'s selling steps–IV*

SM FOUNDER AND CHAIR Henry Sy Sr. called the SM Mall of Asia "the greatest project of my life" in a speech before the Management Association of the Philippines.

As it opens today, it is a good time to look back with a sense of wonder at how the visionary of Philippine retail made shopping and malling the SM way part of the lives of many Filipinos.

This journey has so far taken us from SM's establishment as a shoe store in 1958 to a chain of department stores to an aggressively expanding chain of supermalls. The countdown continues...



**SM CITY STA. ROSA** opens on February in this dynamic investment center, tourism and education center, and upwardly mobile residential community in Laguna. SM City Clark opens in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City, Pampanga on May 12. Both supermalls feature innovations: SM City Clark's circular façade with blue cadding, and al fresco dining beside a fountain and elevated walkways to the Bayanihan Park transport terminal.

## Legacy of '30s . . .

From page B1

Quiapo, Manila but by 1939, moved to a bigger place on Misericordia Street (now T. Mapua).

Business was picking up when World War II broke out. And in 1942, tragedy struck when Luis Sr. died suddenly of a heart attack.

Asuncion was left to fend for her four children—Nena, Felicito, Rosario and Luis Jr.

"It was at the height of war. Amid countless checkpoints by the Japanese Army and while aboard a cargo truck provided by Ramon Magsaysay to transport our father to his final resting place in Zambales, I could see how my mother greatly grieved the loss of my father. But then and there I also sensed and learned from her inner strength and determination," wrote Nena in a tribute to Asuncion.

The matriarch opened a motor shop in her house and hired relatives to repair vehicles and trucks.

She also bought and sold old clothes at Bambang Street just to purchase a bag of rice and mongo beans for the family's next meal.

After the war Asuncion made coffee from toasted rice and *bibingka* and sold these along Avenida, Rizal to support her family. She also rented out some rooms in the house.

In 1945, she had some savings and rebuilt Abiva Press. She received requests for educational materials from teachers and went into the publishing of elementary and high school books.

Abiva pioneered in publishing the Oral English Skills Program which featured listening centers and language laboratories.

In 1965, it became the exclusive distributor of SRA (Science and Research Associates).

In 1969, it set up its own printing company—the Hiyas Press. It was the first press to print Christmas cards using paintings on the cover commissioned by Asuncion.

For 70 years, Abiva has remained a family-owned company. Asuncion eventually passed on the baton to her children and spent her retirement years travelling.

Recently, Asuncion's first grandson, Jorge A. Garcia took over the reigns of the publishing house. It was passed to him by Luis Jr., the youngest child of Asuncion.

Jorge grew up within the walls of the publishing house, which was within the family compound. He started "working" when he was six years old collecting trash in the office.

As he grew older, Jorge continued to be exposed in the business working in the packing section of the publishing house, preparing textbooks for delivery to various schools.

Being the eldest grandson had its perks. He was Asuncion's constant travelling companion enabling him to visit many countries at a young age.

But while Jorge practically grew up in the publishing business, he was made to work in other firms.

After getting a Marketing degree at De La Salle University in 1981, he was hired as an assistant brand manager at GF Equity, a management services company of consumer food items.

It was no surprise then that when Jorge joined Abiva in 1983, he set up the marketing department.

Jorge admits the textbook publishing business is a very tough business because of the tendency of some publishers to resort to bribery and other corrupt practices to sell the books.

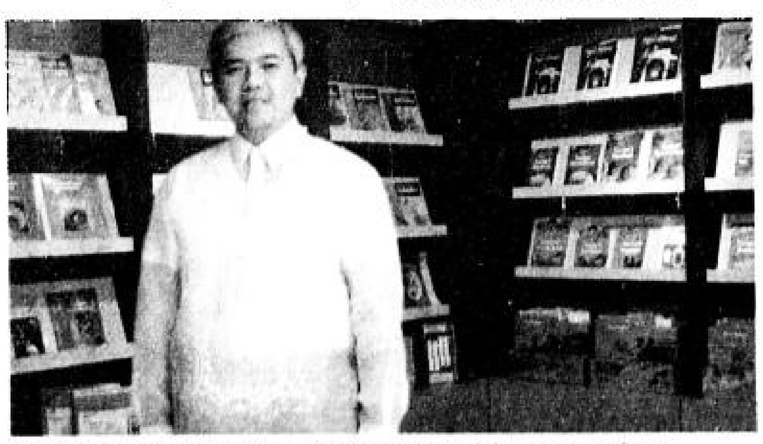
He says the bribe paid out by some publishers accounts for up to 60 percent of the cost of books.

"We do not go into these kinds of dealings," Jorge states. He says what Abiva does is compete via much lower prices and better quality books. This is achieved through efficiency and an integrated operation.

There are about 80 textbook publishers in the country and Abiva is among the biggest and is the oldest.

Jorge also admits there is a dearth of textbook writers in the country as it loses its teachers to the US and other countries where they get much bigger pay.

But he says Abiva remains committed to continuing the legacy Asuncion started, and will believe that Abiva's textbook writers are "nation builders."



**JORGE A.** Garcia vows to uphold the values his grandmother, Asuncion, instilled in the textbook publishing business.

# Scrapbooking fever reaches RP

**By Blooey Singson**
*Contributor*

SCRAPBOOKING IS A CRAFT that has seen tremendous growth in recent years. All over the world, scrappers (scrapbook enthusiasts) get together and scrapbook at each other's homes, trade dealerships, clubs, conventions and even cruises.

In the United States, the scrapbooking industry is worth about $7 billion and is growing by about 27 percent yearly due largely to multi-level marketing enterprises. Scrapbooking has even surpassed golf in popularity—research shows that one in four households in the US has someone playing golf, while one in three households has a scrapper.

Today, the scrapbooking craze has started to catch on in the Philippines—scrapbooking supplies are fast filling bookstore shelves and specialty scrapbooking stores are starting up.

**FILIPINOS'** ardent desire to keep their memories in style has made scrapbooking popular

### Happy scrappers

Every human being seeks a way to leave his or her mark in the world. This is why scrapbooking takes a powerful hold on consumers. With the frenetic pace of today's increasingly high-tech society, the appeal of putting a personal creative touch in one's environment is undeniable.

Scrapbooking, the craft of compiling significant memorabilia into decorated albums, not only allows them to unleash their creativity; it also serves as a way of enhancing relationships with others. No longer just a grandmother's hobby or a child's school project, scrapbooking has evolved into a significant personal craft that allows one to creatively collect and share memories.

Avid scrapper Kat Azanza says, "scrapbooking gives me both an emotional and artistic outlet that is all my own, one that no one needs to judge except me. It is also one of the most wonderful gifts I can leave my children."

Mayet Villarosa, who has been scrapbooking for years now, shares, "scrapbooking is a very unique and personal way of keeping memories, and it's a beautiful legacy you can pass on to future generations."

Scrapbooking entrepreneur Nenette Madero adds, "a scrapbook is the storybook of your life. It's the art of preserving memories that matter most to you, to create a link to your past so that you can look back and remember."

### Not just cut-and-paste

Anybody can scrap about any topic under the sun, but scrapbooking isn't randomly sticking a mishmash of items onto a piece of paper.

"There are basic design principles that can help you in your layout. While there are no strict rules to follow, there's some deliberation that goes into it. Take pictures, for instance—you don't plaster all the pictures from your album in your scrapbook. You have to choose pictures that say something or bring out a certain feeling," says Madero.

A scrapbook has three main components: pictures, title and journal. The journal component sets scrapbooks apart from photo albums. Accompanying texts bring to life the story behind the pictures.

Embellishments also contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the scrapbook. They come in the form of stickers, die-cuts, metal accents, ribbons, rub-ons, etc. Embellishments usually follow trends in fashion, in terms of styles and colors.

Scrapbooks can be thematic, documenting milestones and important events such as birthdays, holidays, and vacations.

"People normally scrap events," relates Madero, "but everyday moments can be just as meaningful. You don't even have to scrap chronologically; you can start with whatever catches your attention."

### Scrapper's attic

Filipino scrappers bemoan the lack of scrapbooking materials in the local market. An avid scrapper herself, Madero decided to bring in scrapbooking products from the US so that Filipino scrappers could have more choices available to them.

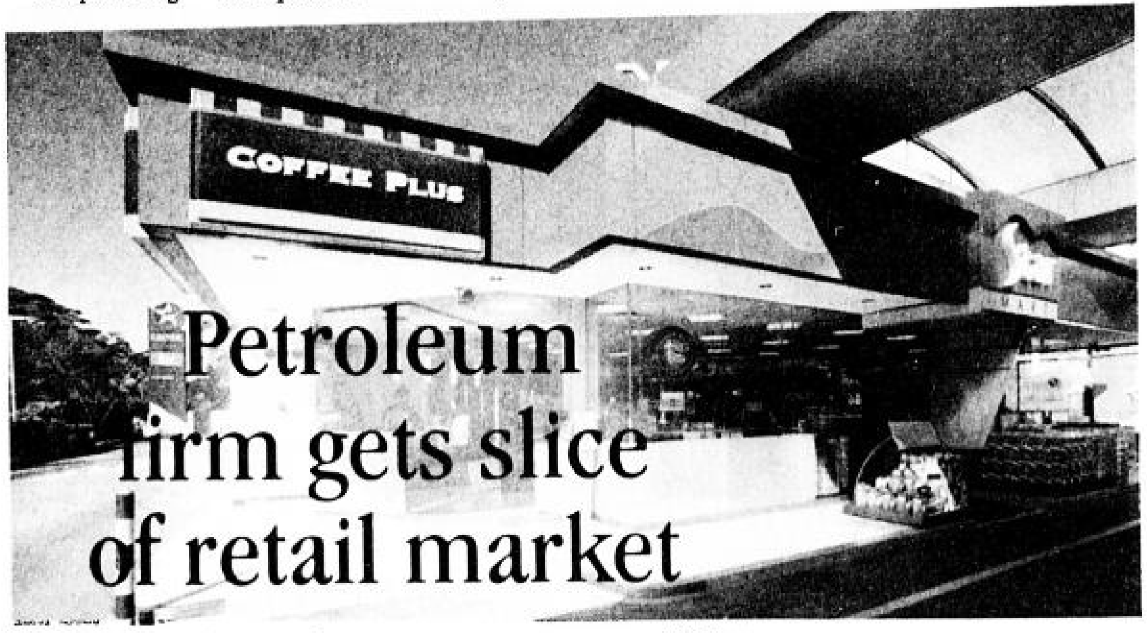
"I have a group of friends who usually get together to scrap. When I brought in scrapbooking supplies from my US trips, my friends usually bought from me. So I decided to put up an online store to make a wider range of products available to more people."

Madero's website, www.mylittleattic.com, was named for her attic, where her scrapping group frequently meets. It features an online store that has practically everything a scrapper would need. The store carries patterned papers, card stock, adhesives, embellishments and charms, albums and page protectors, cutting and embossing tools, foam and rubber stamps, paint, chalk, and an assortment of threads and ribbons. Customers deposit their money into Madero's account, and once the payment is cleared, deliveries can be made within one day for Metro Manila, or two days for provincial orders.

"The items are brought in from the States but in the future, I aim to come up with locally made embellishments, with our wealth of indigenous materials," says Madero

The website also features a gallery, forums, and useful links. Scrappers can also apply for free membership to a scrapping club, which entitles them to newsletters, scrapbooking updates, tips, contests and even private sales.

Scrappers can also visit the My Little Attic booth at the Scrap Fest on May 21 at the roofdeck of the Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The Scrap Fest is open to all for a registration fee of P300, inclusive of materials and snacks. Activities for the Scrap Fest are demonstrations, workshops, scrap fest challenge, and raffles. For inquiries, email nenette@mylittleattic.com.



# Petroleum firm gets slice of retail market

**THE STAR** Mart gives motorists one more reason to gas up at Caltex

**COFFEE,** anyone?

**By Abigail L. Ho**

A COMPANY DOESN'T HAVE TO be No. 1 to offer its patrons the best products and services it possibly could.

Chevron, one of the world's biggest oil companies, seemed to have adopted that philosophy, as proven by its units in Singapore and the Philippines.

Here in the country, Chevron Philippines Inc. has a 20-percent share of the overall retail market, behind refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Since it shut down its refinery here, it has lost quite a bit of its share of the retail pie. Despite that, the company has strived to maintain its brand of quality service and has continued to offer top-of-the-line fuel products to consumers.

Chevron Philippines policy, government and public affairs manager Mark Quebral said this was the oil firm's way of differentiating itself in the retail market.

"We try and differentiate ourselves in the retail market by offering a new and superior gasoline product in Techron. We have also upgraded our facilities, including lighting, forecourt and bathrooms to be more appealing to motorists," he said.

The oil company has earmarked more than P375 million this year to beef up its existing service stations, upgrade its underground storage tanks and support the launch of its Techron "clean" gasoline in the country.

Chevron Singapore Pte. Ltd. is doing the same thing, with particular focus on unique products and services.

One such unique offering is the "Caltex Snow Wash," a manual car wash that uses "the latest foam technology for a cleaner, better wash than ever before," according to Chevron Singapore retail sales manager Teri Khoo.

### A hit with the kids

She said the Caltex Snow Wash, which was being offered in 12 out of 29 Caltex stations in Singapore, entailed having vehicles jet-sprayed with a layer of wash and shampoo, then jet-rinsed and hand dried.

"The name Snow Wash is coined from the car shampoo and wax foam that is so clean and light that it's like snow," she said.

She said this unique offering was not only a hit with vehicle owners, but also with the kids that went with their parents during car wash sessions.

Since the introduction of the Snow Wash in December 2002, she said revenue from car washes had increased tenfold. On any given day, Caltex stations all over Singapore did between 250 and 500 Snow Washes each day.

"The sight of a car being slushed with thick, snow-white foam, before it is manually wiped, tugs at the kids. Adults, having paid dearly for their cars due to the unique tax system in Singapore, reckon the Snow Wash is safer, brighter, and cleaner than conventional car washes," she said.

The oil firm also started offering Frutti Snow Wash in mid-2003, which left vehicles smelling like oranges, apples or grapes.

The orange, pink and purple foam used for the Frutti Snow Wash are an even bigger hit with the kids.

Khoo said some Snow Wash trials were currently being done in some Caltex stations in Thailand and Malaysia. There were no plans yet of bringing the service to the Philippine market, however.

### Beyond the ordinary

Apart from its unique products and services, Quebral said its Star Mart convenience stores and clean in-station restrooms were also key differentiators for the Caltex brand.

Several of the oil firm's Star Mart stores had Coffee Plus stations, which offered customers the experience of being in a mini coffee shop, complete with various types of coffee, coffee blends, hot and cold tea selections, and pastries, he said.

Some Star Marts also offered Rice Tops, Midnight Choco Fudge Cakes and soft-serve ice cream, he said. Some of its North Luzon Expressway stations also sold the popular Baguio Country Club breads and pastries.

He said its expressway sites and many other stations also provided Wi-Fi (wireless fidelity) connectivity to mobile professionals wanting to still connect to the Internet even while on the road.

"We have clean, well-lighted and safe facilities. We have 86 branded convenience stores and many more minimarts, co-branded quick service restaurants like McDonald's, KFC, Jollibee, Chow King, Starbucks, and others, to satisfy our customers' non-fuel requirements," he said.

In Singapore, Khoo said Chevron banked on the Caltex brand's "Clean" promise, which covered the areas of fuels, sites and people, to differentiate it from other oil firms.

"Caltex now has a premium gasoline, Caltex with Techron, that provides unbeatable cleaning power. Also, Caltex service stations must always be clean and tidy to make our sites more attractive and inviting. Our people should also offer great service by treating all customers as valued individuals," she explained.

The oil firm's ultimate goal, she said, was to help make life easier for motorists.

Quebral said the same was true with Caltex in the Philippines.

"We are trying to make Caltex a place of destination," he said.

# Farmers go into direct selling

**Text & photos by Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

FRESH and good-priced vegetables from Benguet are sold straight to buyers in Clark through the Farm Fresh 25, a direct-selling project by Candaba farmers.

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—TEN months since farmers in Candaba, Pampanga, ventured into the direct selling of their produce, growers from other areas have started trying the concept.

On May 12, farmers from Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya joined for the first time their Candaba counterparts in the "Farm Fresh 25."

At an old warehouse fronting the Department of Foreign Affairs office in Clark, the Marketing Cooperative of Benguet Farmers (MCBF) sold at least 1,600 kilograms of assorted vegetables, according to its chair, Alumno Ampaguey.

The Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT) delivered its first bulk order of 120 kg of assorted vegetables to the Cybercity's canteen and workers, said Ronald Hernandez, the group's vice president.

Three hours after the fair opened, MCBF sold 500 kg to shoppers, mostly workers, families of Philippine Air Force men, Clark residents and Clark visitors.

"Our selling rate is good," Ampaguey said as he assessed the reactions of buyers.

## Fresh, cheap produce

Like the Candaba farmers, these Northern Luzon growers lured consumers through two market-tested factors: Freshness of the produce and lower prices.

The supplies came straight from the farms, ensuring freshness of the goods, and were sold at much lower prices because hauling costs were much lower and no traders' markup was added.

Ampaguey said MCBF, the marketing arm of the Benguet Farmers Federation (BFF), joined the fair on the invitation of Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo to La Trinidad (Benguet) Mayor Nestor Fongwan, president of the Benguet Mayors' League.

BFF counts as members some 30,000 vegetables growers from the province's 13 towns and Baguio City, Fongwan said.

Ampaguey said their participation in the fair was "not a one-shot deal but a continuous one."

His reason? To make Benguet-grown vegetables affordable to many which, he said, was an approach to meeting the demand in the market, and sustaining the agricultural sector.

Like what Candaba farmers had done, Ampaguey and Hernandez hoped that the fair would eventually link their groups with bulk buyers like hotels and restaurants.

Pelayo said Clark workers are, by themselves, a big market to tap. In this former US military base-turned-economic zone, they count 36,000 in almost 400 companies.

Ampaguey said bringing the produce straight to where the buyers were was a good way to deal with the adverse impact of globalization or the opening up of the local market to cheaper foreign produce.

## Marketing vehicle

"Farm Fresh 25," their marketing vehicle, is now held every Friday from just once a month in July to September 2005.

Pelayo said he picked up the idea from the "Huwarang Palengke (model market)" concept of former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

Farmers from Candaba's 33 villages are preparing to export at least 20 percent of the town's vegetables and fish.

A marketing caravan in Singapore is slated to clinch the deal, it was learned.

Candaba grows the traditional vegetables like squash, bitter gourd and beans. It also cultivates watermelon, honeydew, corn and papaya.

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## Drug industry

From page B4

WASSMER during his Eli Lilly days

pates in discussions to find ways to bring down the cost of medicine by submitting position papers or making presentations to concerned groups, including the academe and especially the Department of Health.

Wassmer takes extra effort to update himself on the many global developments that have an impact on the pharmaceutical industry, such as the outbreak of SARS and avian flu, to see how local firms could address issues long before they become really serious problems.

That means reading a lot of material and occasionally going abroad for conferences with other drug associations.

Wassmer says he still keeps a busy schedule, but he would not have wanted it any other way.

He says he can still go on at 75 years old because he "is still having fun."

It has been fun from the time the Swiss-Filipino started working at the Botica Boie Inc., the first drug store with a revolving door, as chemical manager at 20 years old.

During his nine years there, his degrees in Chemistry from Adamson University and Business Administration from the University of the East were put to good use.

From there he moved to F.E. Zuellig as division manager and then to Eli Lilly in 1969, his last post before he headed PHAP.

Wassmer says his schedule at PHAP is not much different, although he is first to admit that he is no longer a spring chicken, so he limits his drinks to just a glass of wine or two shots of whisky.

"I no longer drink like a fish," Wassmer says with a laugh.

He comes to the office at 9 in the morning and leaves at 4 p.m., but no longer every day. Other days, he plays a round of golf or just the take time out to be with Adela, his wife of over 50 years, at least one of his seven children, or his 15 grandchildren.

Wassmer says his family has been telling him to take things even easier, especially after he was slowed down by a recent operation.

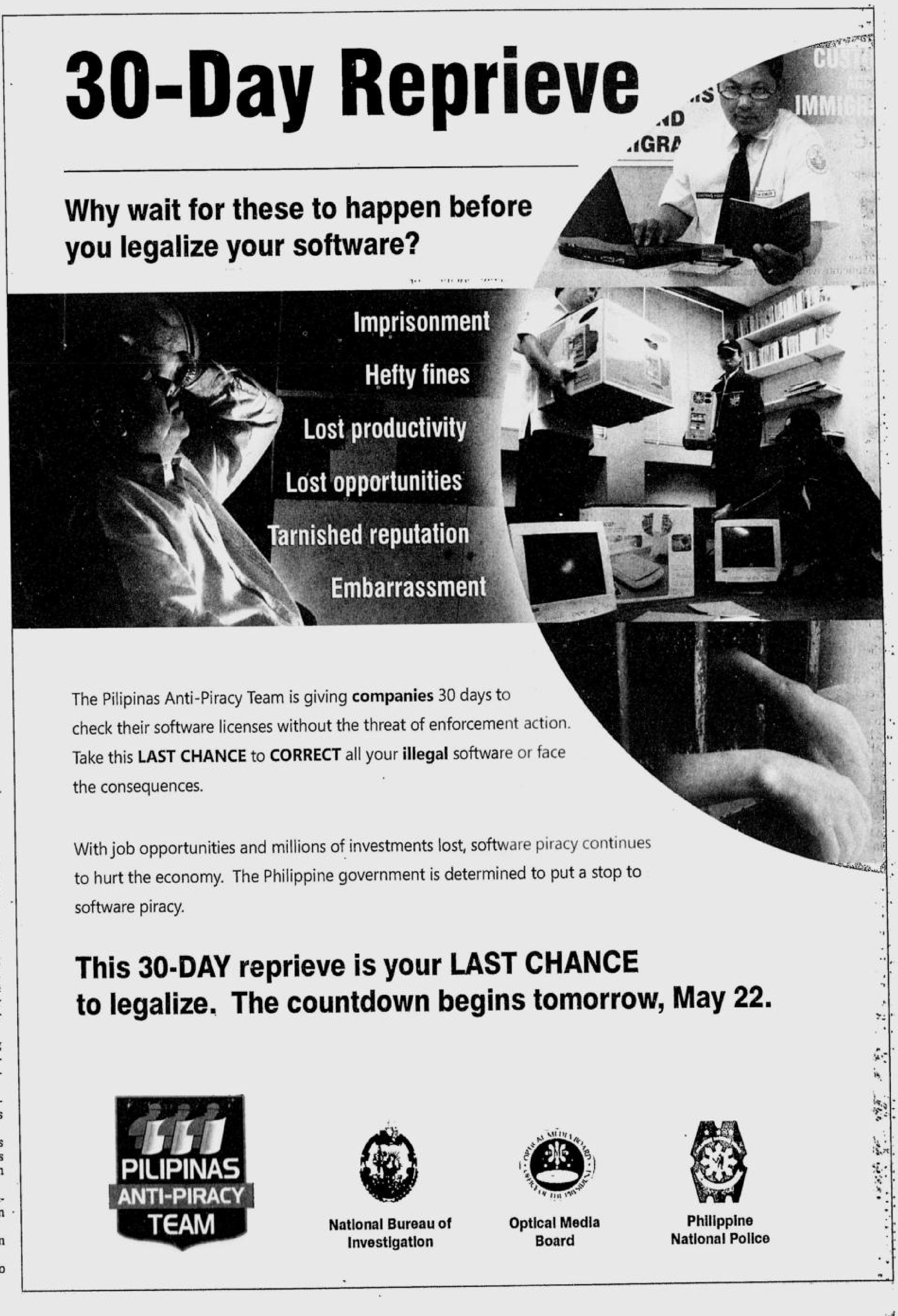
"I am glad that during my last check-up, everything seems to be in place. The Lord has been really good to me," he says.

Wassmer considers still having a job like his as a blessing because it allows him to keep his mind active while having more than enough time to pursue his other pleasures.

He says he will recommend it to other retirees, since they still have a lot of wisdom and experience to share with others.

Wassmer says he does not know up to when he can keep his job at PHAP.

But one thing's for sure, he will live life to the fullest while there is still life to live.



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# Drug industry keeps CEO going

## Former Eli Lilly GM says he's far from really retiring

WASSMER

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN IT COMES TO DRUGS, Leo P. Wassmer Jr. is an expert.

Wassmer, after all, has over 50 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, which is invaluable in his job as chief executive officer of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines.

The 60-year-old PHAP is the biggest group of pharmaceutical firms, and its members account for nine of 10 drugs sold in the country.

He was supposed to take over the reins of PHAP for just a year or two after retiring as general manager of Eli Lilly (Philippines) Inc. in 1990, to get him used to an easier schedule after working hard at the helm of what used to be one of the biggest pharmaceutical firms in the country.

The one or two years turned into 16 years and counting, and Wassmer says the work pressure has not let up.

That's just the way he likes it.

"I really have nothing better to do and at least here, I am among friends and colleagues, many of whom are much younger than I am," Wassmer says.

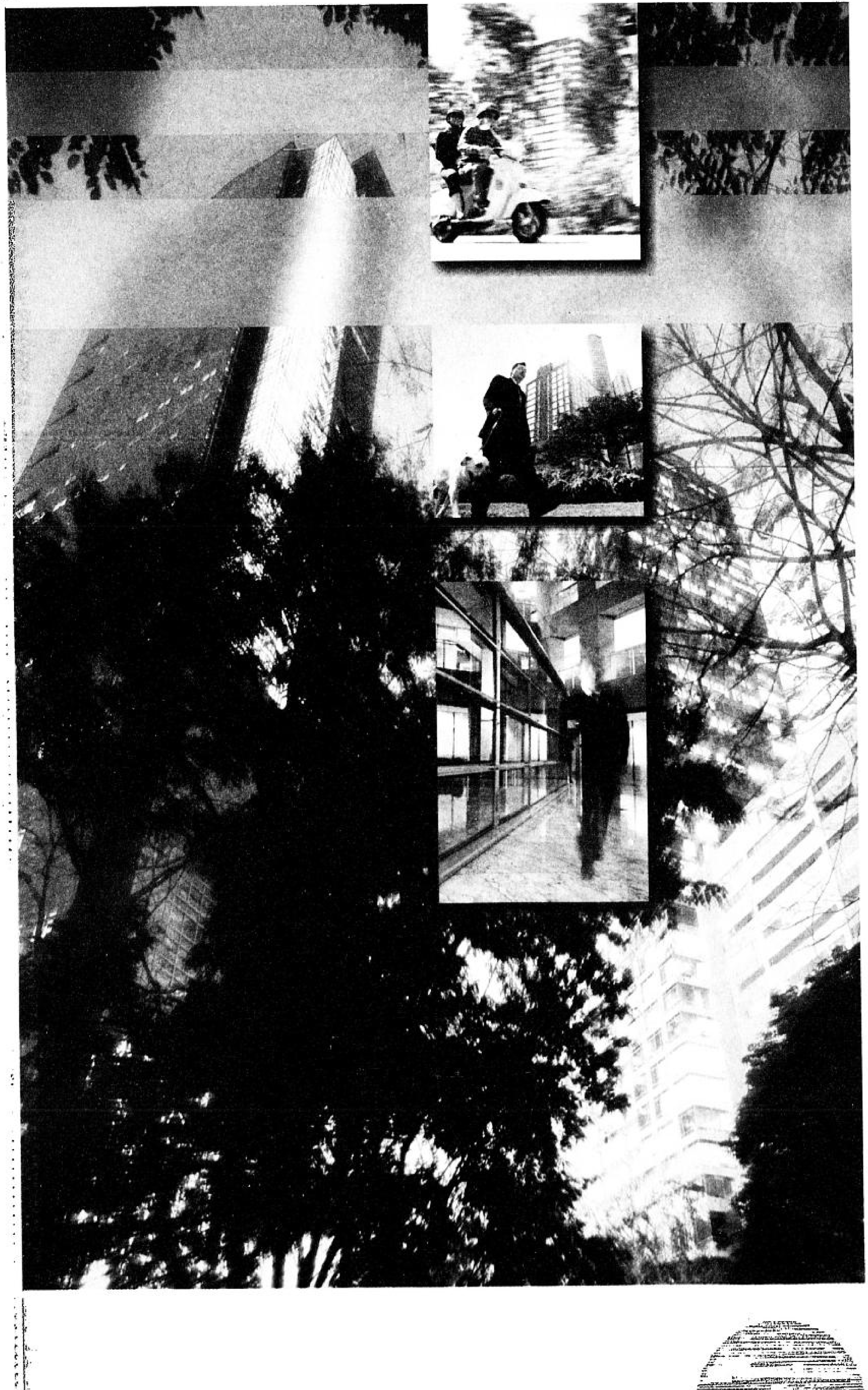
As head of PHAP, Wassmer spends a lot of time in deep conversation with the heads of the multinational drug companies regarding issues facing the industry, such as the proliferation of counterfeit drugs and proposed legislation that could have an impact on their operations.

Wassmer also spends time talking to government officials, legislators and other groups with whom the drug companies deal with.

He is especially busy when calamities strike as PHAP is usually asked to donate badly needed medicine and services to victims of natural disasters.

PHAP also actively partici-

DRUG/ B3



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Dedicated open spaces will be developed into a network of retail promenades, paseos and plazas. The new design deliberately sacrificed saleable land area, and kept it available to all in the form of public lawns, parks and greenery. Every amenity and convenience including green spaces will be provided to instill pride in the workplace and enhance the quality of life. Bonifacio Global City is an investment envisioned to be appreciated – and to appreciate – for years to come.

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# Defining The Filipino Lifestyle

## The advent of malls made a huge impact on the Filipino way of life

**By Marlet D. Salazar**

Malls have progressed from more than just shopping centers. Schools and offices may have become virtual second homes. Malls, on the other hand, complete it by becoming the third venue where most people, especially Filipinos, spend their after-school or after-office hours, and of course, their weekends.

Filipinos are known to be a social lot. They have that fervent inclination to be with other people: friends, colleagues, org mates, or just the family. They love to go out, spend some time outside the house, or just go anywhere of unfamiliar surroundings. And where else can you go but to the nearest mall?

In so many ways, malls have altered the Filipino way of life: they actually made it a lot easier. No Filipino of any social class hasn't stepped into a mall for whatever reason.

Picture a family who heard a Sunday Mass, took their breakfast in a fast food, watched a movie, had a quick lunch, went on shopping, bought groceries, and played in an amusement center. Everything they did in one day, they did it inside one comfortable venue that is the mall.

While SM City North Edsa served as the gateway in defining Filipinos' social life, it was indeed SM Megamall, for its sheer size and innovations, which made "malling" a lifestyle.

Hundreds of thousands of people flock to the malls every single day. Their reasons vary. Foremost is to shop, to kill time to avoid the traffic, and it has actually become a convergence point for friends.

**Henry Sy, Sr.**
**Founder and Chairman of the SM Group of Companies**

One phenomenon to marvel at is the way SM supermalls become a landmark. No person will be lost even if it is his or her first time in a particular place; there is always a jeepney that is "biyaheng SM."

Many stories are weaved inside an SM shopping mall. At the entrance alone, you see people checking on their watches every now and then waiting for that someone to show up. A group of students are on their way to lunch or snacks and is choosing between various fast food chains they pass by. There are mommies appeasing their kids because they want to watch a movie while the others want to go to the ice skating rink. Sometimes there are couples giggling over the newly developed/printed photos of their recent out-of-town trip.

The pictures of life inside a mall are endless. Malls have become not only as a one-stop shopping center, it has become a reality show of people from all walks of life.

"I still get my satisfaction from walking in the malls and watching people shop and have fun in a clean, safe, and exciting environment," says SM founder and chairman Henry Sy, Sr.

But it was in the 1950s and 1960s, during the retail magnate's frequent travels abroad when shopping centers became a fixture in key commercial areas in the United States – a concept he thought he could bring to the Philippines.

Little did Filipinos know that their life would never be the same again.

**One phenomenon to marvel at is the way SM supermalls become a landmark. No person will be lost even if it is his or her first time in a particular place; there is always a jeepney that is "biyaheng SM."**

SM malls have transformed to more than just, well, a mall. Its prominence in key cities in the metro and growing presence in the provinces provide an opportunity for the grassroots economy to prosper. Malls provide a venue for local retailers to do and expand their businesses. The local people, on one hand, have become dynamic and discerning consumers who are now offered varied choices. The unique mix of stores from local to global brands offers them diverse options.

Also, the presence of malls, especially SM supermalls, generates jobs for the local folk. It is no longer necessary for workers, as well as consumers, to flock to Metro Manila for they already have their "own" SM city.

One thing noticeable about SM malls is its accessibility; not only in terms of distance but also when it comes to market share. While SM initially targets the middle class, it has the flexibility to serve the upscale and the lower classes. Nobody feels inferior when he or she enters an SM mall.

As Henry Sy Sr. said in one of his speeches, "SM shopping malls were the first to treat the working man the same way as his boss." In other words, "there's no discrimination." SM malls have become more than just a part of people's way of life. It continues to innovate and meet the consumers' discriminating fascination with everything new.

**Hans Sy**
**President of SM Prime Holdings, Inc.**

The organization, easy-to-find stores, and accessibility are clearly what set SM malls apart from the others, they are now even more inviting with certain innovations that are truly SM.

It holds the distinction of being the first mall in the tropics whose ice skating team has won major competitions abroad. The ice skating rink remains one of SM Megamall's main draws. SM Southmall attracts children with its theme park, the SM Storyland.

SM Baguio's design is one for the books for it adapted to the climate of the city with an open-air mall. SM Sta. Rosa goes environment-friendly with a butterfly garden. The newly opened SM City Clark has an outdoor fountain beside an al fresco dining.

Small necessities at home, in the office, or in school need not cause any worry because, "there's always the (SM) mall." Where to meet up is no longer a problem because "there is SM," and it would be completely outrageous to miss an SM mall.

Henry Sy is not just a name in the corporate world. While he is of Chinese ancestry, he knows the beat of the Filipino heart. He has the sensitivity to understand not just to meet consumer demands; he knows what and when to give it to them.

Son Hans Sy is not just following his footsteps or carries on his legacy, he surely knows that what his father has started is not just a business but doing Filipinos a favor by making their lives easier, exciting, and eventful.

# The Road To The SM Mall of Asia

**The corporate journey to the SM Mall of Asia began when Henry Sy, Sr. opened a shoe store in 1958 in downtown Manila. It is a journey that has spanned almost fifty years, beginning at the time that the suburbs or "burbs" were rapidly developing in the United States, with the shopping center as an integral part of these communities. Mr. Sy, who made frequent trips abroad during the 1950s and 1960s observed this trend and thought that shopping malls could be part of the Filipino lifestyle.**

The success of Shoemart shoe stores led to its evolution to a chain of department stores and later other retail formats like supermarkets and appliance stores.

In 1985, SM opened its first shopping center, SM City in North-EDSA, and the rest, as they say is history. Today, after 27 department stores, more than a hundred retail stores, and 24 supermalls and serving generations of shoppers, SM brings shopping, leisure, and entertainment to another level with the opening of the SM Mall of Asia, which is envisioned as the premiere destination mall in the Asia Pacific region. As we celebrate this special day, we share with you this journey, looking back on how malling – the SM way – became part of the Filipino lifestyle.

### THE EARLY YEARS

In October 1958, Henry Sy, Sr. opened the first Shoemart store along Rizal Avenue in downtown Manila. Mr. Sy conceptualized a chain of shoe stores, each characterized by a distinct merchandising layout never before attempted in the country.

SM North Edsa Opened November 1985

The company expanded its shoe store chain in the 1960s, and became one of the pioneers in the new urban centers when it opened bigger shoe stores in the Makati Commercial Center in 1963 and in Cubao in 1967.

Shoemart marked its shift from a shoe store to a full line department store in the 1970s with SM Echague and later SM Makati in 1975. This was also the time that Shoemart became known as SM Shoemart or simply SM, a name that has become synonymous with one-stop shopping excitement. SM positioned itself for growth in the 1980s, diversifying into the supermarket and appliance store business. Late 1985 marked the opening of its first shopping mall, SM City North-EDSA.

In a speech to members of the Management Association of the Philippines late last year, Mr. Sy's eldest daughter Teresita Sy-Coson recalled that time:

"When we constructed our first mall in North-EDSA in 1983, the Philippines was in the midst of a debt moratorium, drastic devaluation, and experiencing hyper inflation. The economy's decline was further aggravated by the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

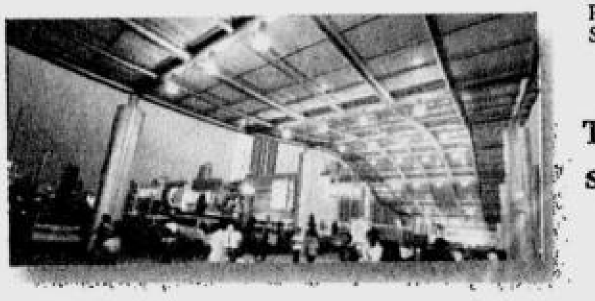
"Many bankers predicted our demise because Mr. Sy came from nowhere. He may have had a few department stores and shoe stores, but he was not one of the financial heavyweights at that time.

"Unaffected by criticism and armed with sheer determination and optimism, he persisted and opened in 1985 with our department store and supermarket and a few tenants."

**"Many bankers predicted our demise because Mr. Sy came from nowhere..."**
**- Teresita Sy-Coson**

### MALLING BECOMES A LIFESTYLE

The phenomenal success of SM City North-EDSA led to the establishment of other SM malls in the 1990s, beginning with the opening of SM Centerpoint, now known as SM City Santa Mesa in 1990. Shoppers couldn't get enough of the SM Megamall experience when it opened in 1991 in the dynamic Ortigas Center. Not only was it mega in size at 331,679 square meters, but also mega in innovations. With its ice skating rink; Artwalk, a gallery in a mall concept; Megatrade Hall; twelve state of the art cinemas including a Preview Studio; and hundreds of shops, it spearheaded what is known as the malling phenomenon in the Philippines.



SM Megamall Opened June 1991

Suddenly malls became gathering places where families and friends could shop together, eat out together, and have fun together. Malling became a lifestyle.

SM opened its first provincial mall, SM City Cebu, in the Queen City of the South in 1993. With its tropical theme, shopping and dining excitement, Science Museum, and Travelers Lounge, SM City Cebu became a favorite destination of shoppers in the Visayas region.

In 1994, SM Prime Holdings, which owns and operates SM malls went public with an initial offering of 1,114,641,158 shares valued at PhP5.35 per share.

More SM malls, now called supermalls opened in key Metro and provincial areas: SM Southmall in 1995, which had an indoor theme park called Storyland Adventure; SM City Bacoor in Cavite and SM City Fairview in the north Metro area in 1997; and SM City Iloilo in the Visayas region in 1999.

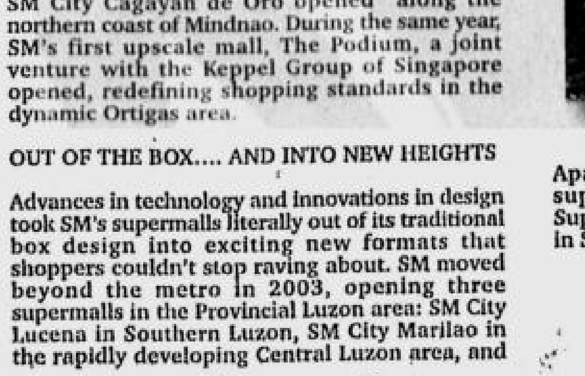
### BUILDING MORE SM CITIES

In the new century, SM began to pursue an aggressive expansion program to build at least two new supermalls a year to serve more customers. These were appropriately called SM cities, whose citizens were the loyal shoppers who would make frequent trips to the malls to shop, eat out, watch movies, or simply have fun together.

The expansion took both an urban and rural route. In 2000, SM City Manila opened in the heart of the city, a site both historic and bustling. Later in the year, SM City Pampanga opened in San Fernando, making headlines as thousands of shoppers from Pampanga and nearby provinces trooped to the mall and literally stopped traffic on opening day.

It was a year of firsts in 2001: SM Supercenter Sucat, the first supermall to have a hypermarket as an anchor opened in the South metro area. Malling – the SM way – went to the southern Philippines later in the year with the opening of SM City Davao, the group's first mall in Mindanao.

**The SM Megamall experience... spearheaded what is known as the malling phenomenon in the Philippines.**



The Podium

In 2002, SM City Bicutan opened in the crossroads of several densely populated residential and commercial areas in the South Metro area; while SM City Cagayan de Oro opened along the northern coast of Mindnao. During the same year, SM's first upscale mall, The Podium, a joint venture with the Keppel Group of Singapore opened, redefining shopping standards in the dynamic Ortigas area.

### OUT OF THE BOX.... AND INTO NEW HEIGHTS

Advances in technology and innovations in design took SM's supermalls literally out of its traditional box design into exciting new formats that shoppers couldn't stop raving about. SM moved beyond the metro in 2003, opening three supermalls in the Provincial Luzon area: SM City Lucena in Southern Luzon, SM City Marilao in the rapidly developing Central Luzon area, and SM City Baguio, whose innovative sprawling design has made it a destination in the scenic City of Pines.

The following year, two supermalls opened in the rapidly growing Calabarzon region: SM City Dasmarinas in Cavite and SM City Batangas, in the Southern Luzon area. Three supermalls opened in 2005, SM City San Lazaro in the site of the historic Manila Jockey Club in the old Manila area; as well as two supercenters anchored by SM Hypermarket in Valenzuela in the North Metro area, and in Molino, Cavite. During the same year, SM Founder and Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. was honored as the Father of Philippine Retail by the Philippine Retailers Association.

Innovations have been key to SM's newest supermalls in 2006. SM City Santa Rosa, which opened in this dynamic investment, tourism, and residential Center in Laguna, has an indoor butterfly garden. SM City Clark, which opened last May 12, has a breathtaking circular façade with blue cladding, al fresco dining beside an outdoor fountain, and an impressive transport terminal with elevated walkways.

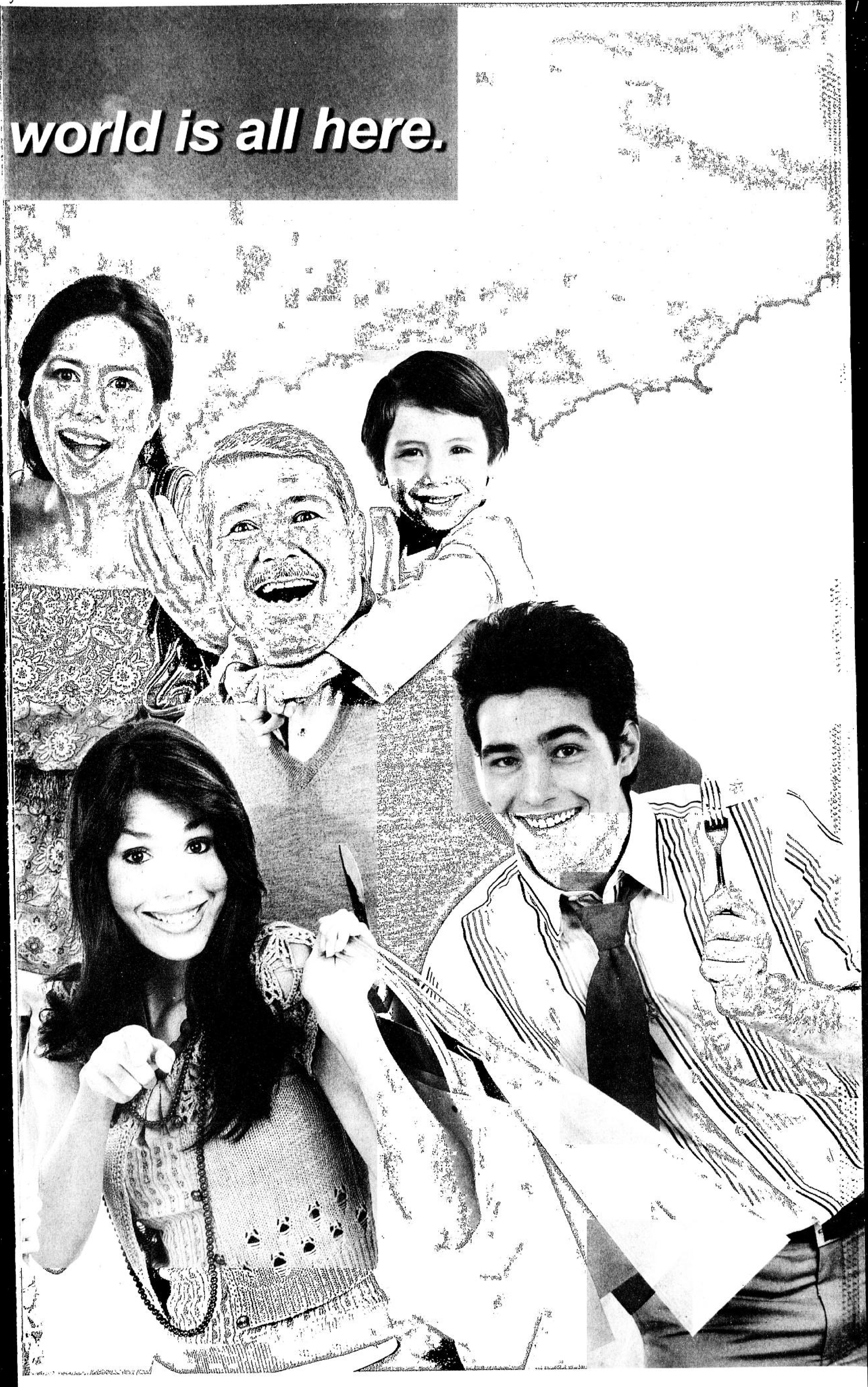
SM City Baguio Opened November 2003

SM Mall of Asia
Grand opening today!

MALL OF ASIA

Apart from the SM Mall of Asia, three more supermalls will be opening this year – SM Supercenter Frontera Verde in July, SM City Lipa in September, and SM City Bacolod in November.

# The best of the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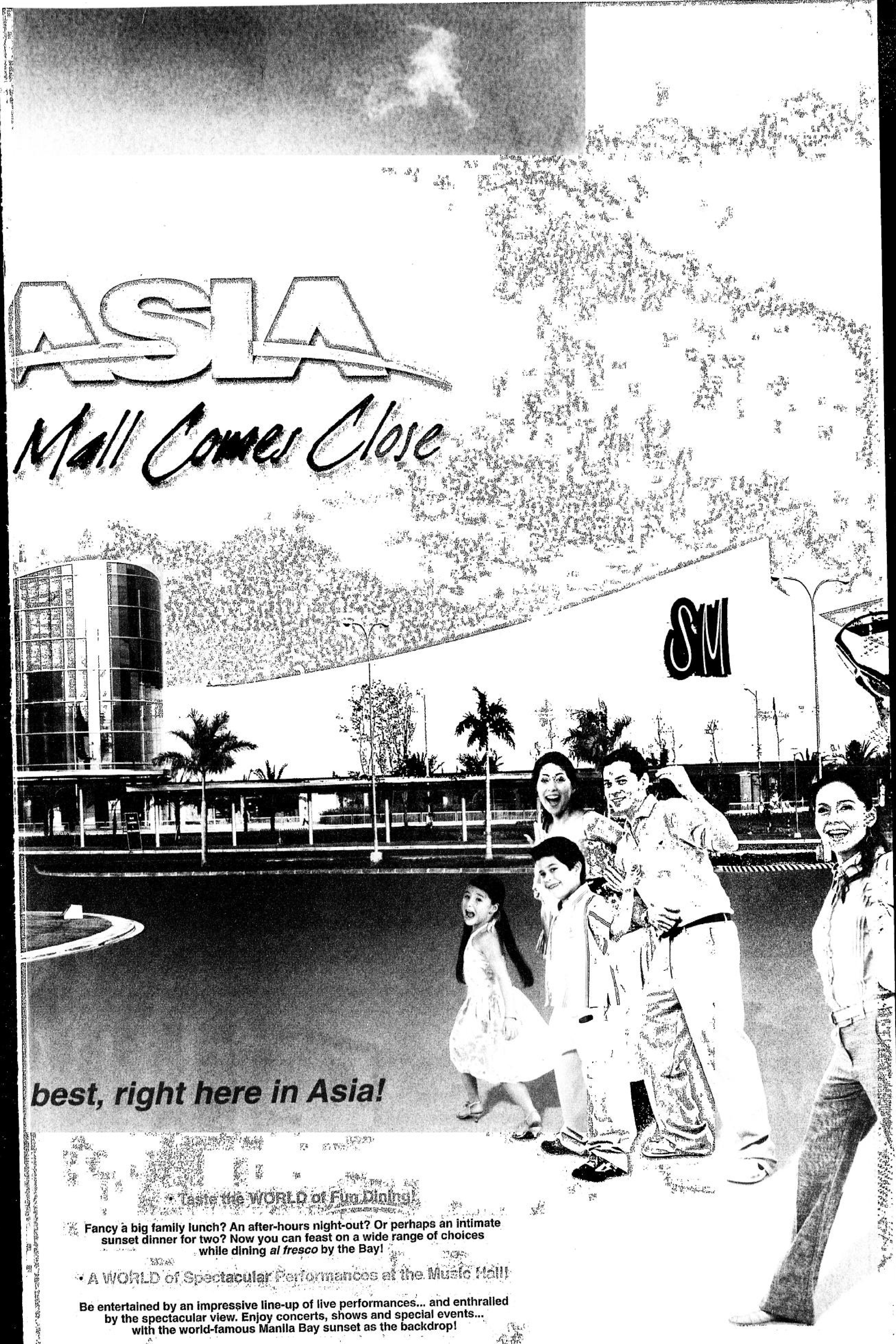

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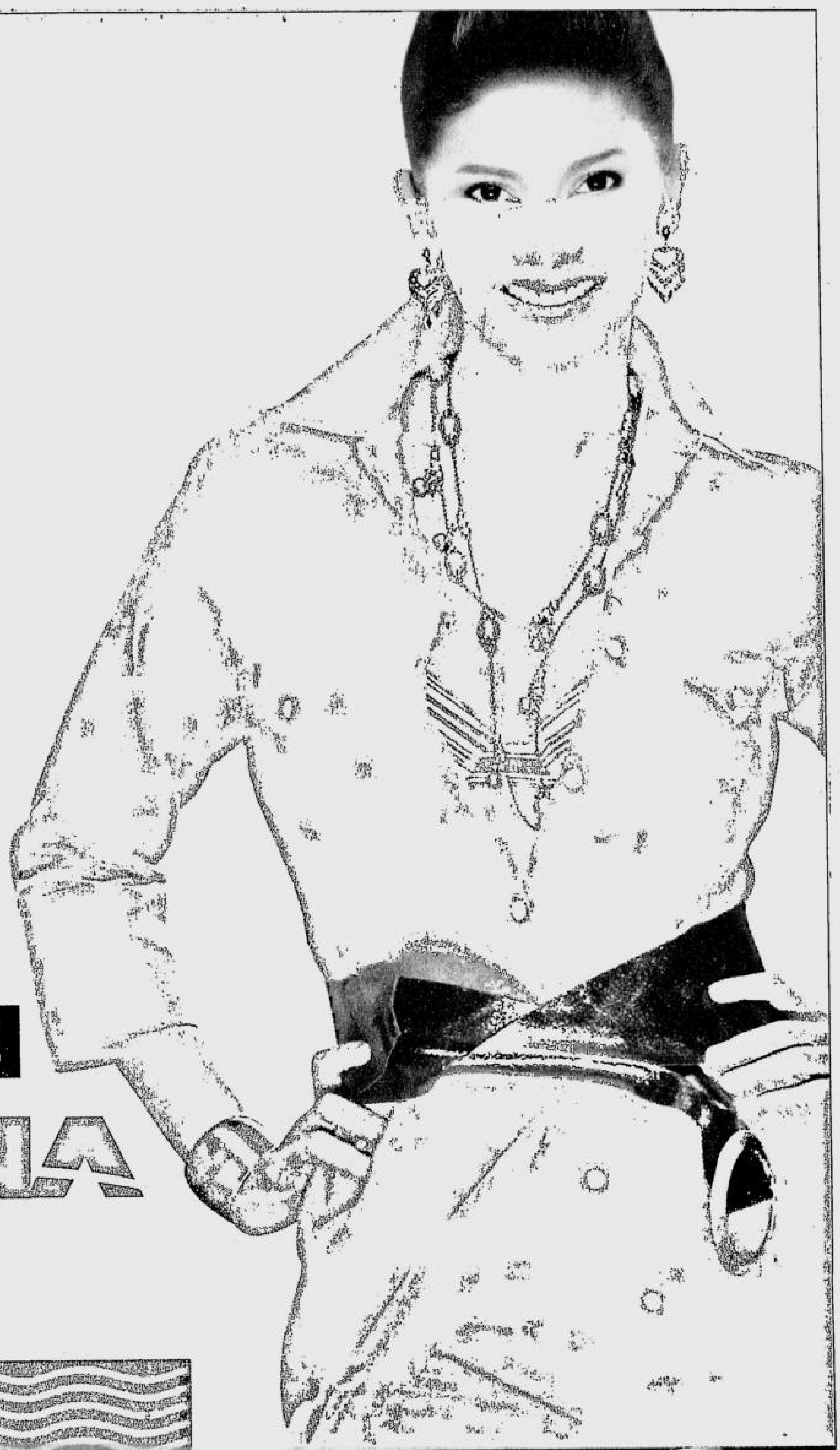

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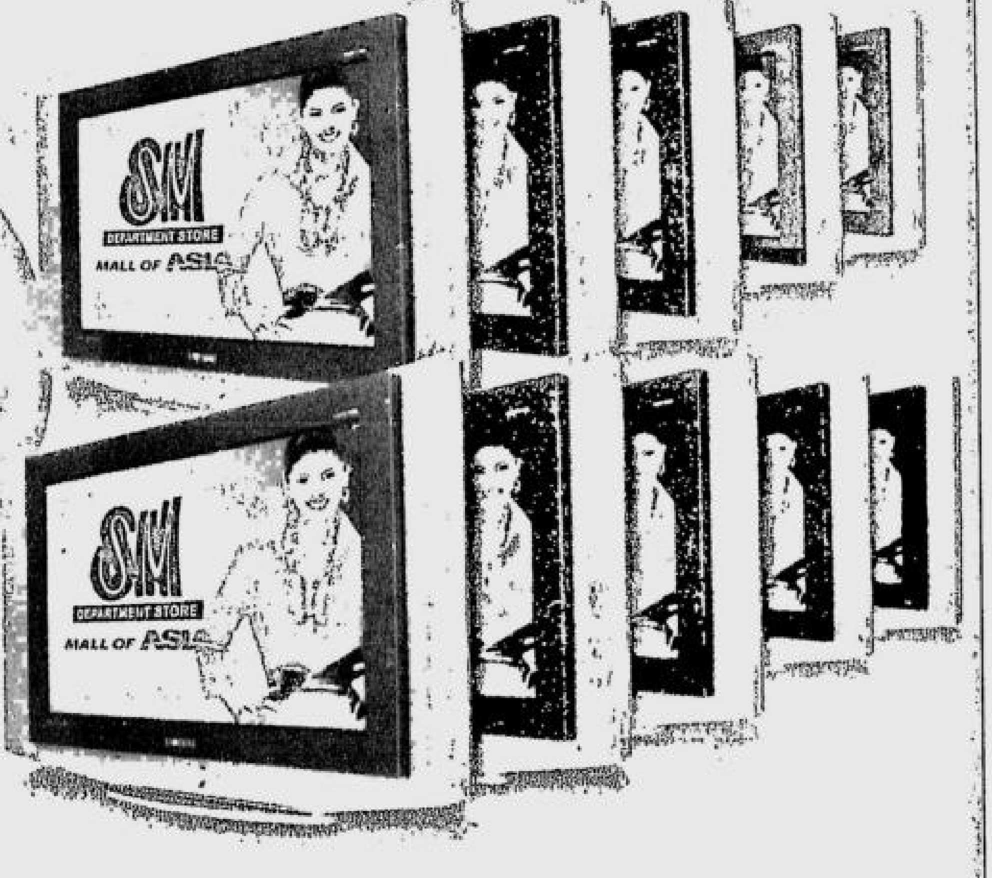

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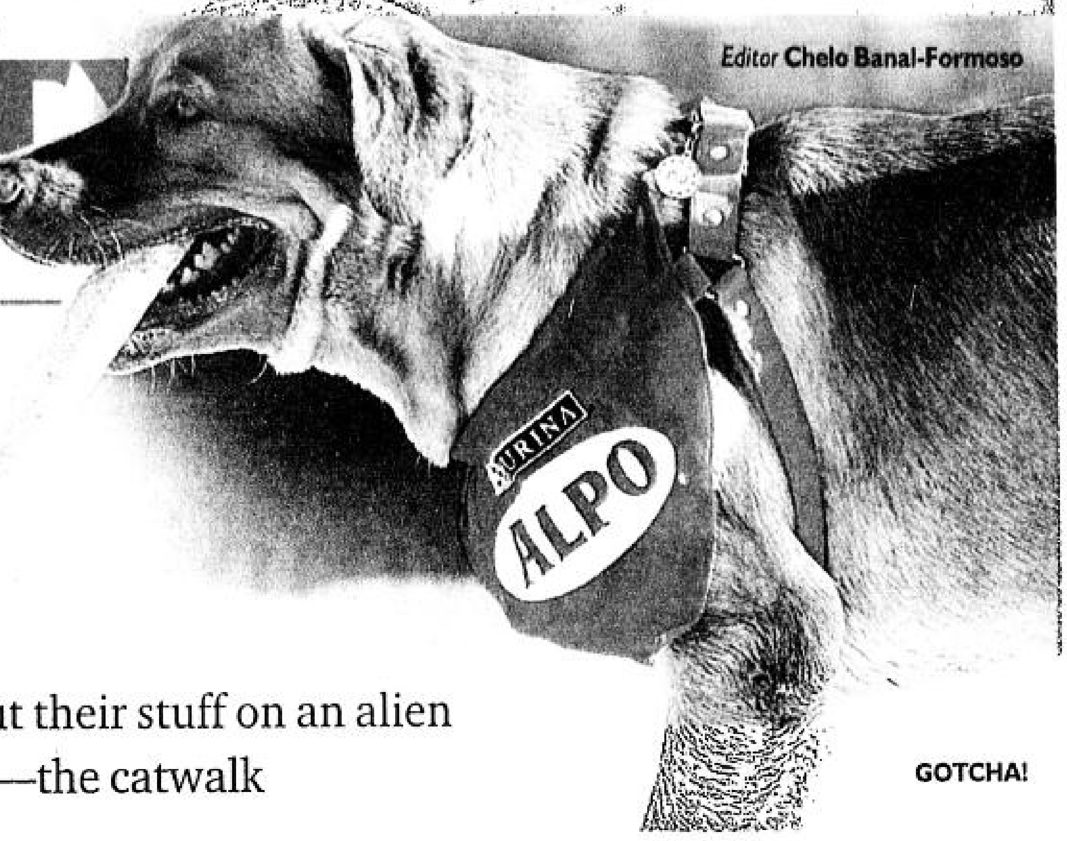
Sunday LIFEST

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

TWO for the road



GOTCHA!

# Doggone fashion

They strut their stuff on an alien territory—the catwalk

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Ernie Sarmiento**

IN MANY OF OUR FASHION coverages, there have been quite a number of times when the collections nearly went to the dogs. This time they literally did.

Not a few sun-worshipping tourists had to stop and stare as Boracay's doting dog lovers recently walked down the Red Carpet with their toy dogs—from pugs to poodles, Pekingese to Shih Tzus, beagles to mini pinchers—dressed in the latest pooch outfits and accessories by K9 Couture.

Buddy, a mini pincher, marched in a nautical outfit, while her fellow mini pincher, Amigo, pranced in a striped blue tee.

Not a few, like poodle Akimi, went revealing in a two-piece floral-printed bikini. Alas, her mistress, who probably took her cue from Paris Hilton, unwittingly ruined the dog's beach-babe look by dressing Akimi in leather booties.

Shih Tzus Malibu and Khalua paraded in blue and pink tees, respectively, while a family of mini pinchers composed of Pucci, Kiki, Pekpek and Pitoy swaggered either in tiered tutus or Hawaiian shirts.

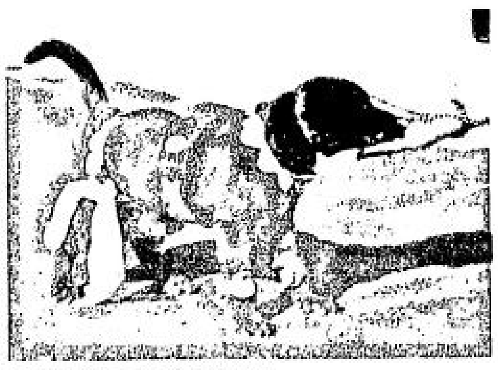
Pucci even did something "obscene" (she clambered on one of her owners' legs and humped) that brought the crowd, composed mostly of children, in stitches. If kids say the darndest, then dogs do the darndest.

Stencil, a mixed beagle in a red geisha attire, experienced cold paws, er, feet and refused to budge an inch. Instead of dragging the poor dog, her quick-thinking owner carried her all the way.

Not all models were toy dogs, mind you, as

DOGGONE/ D2

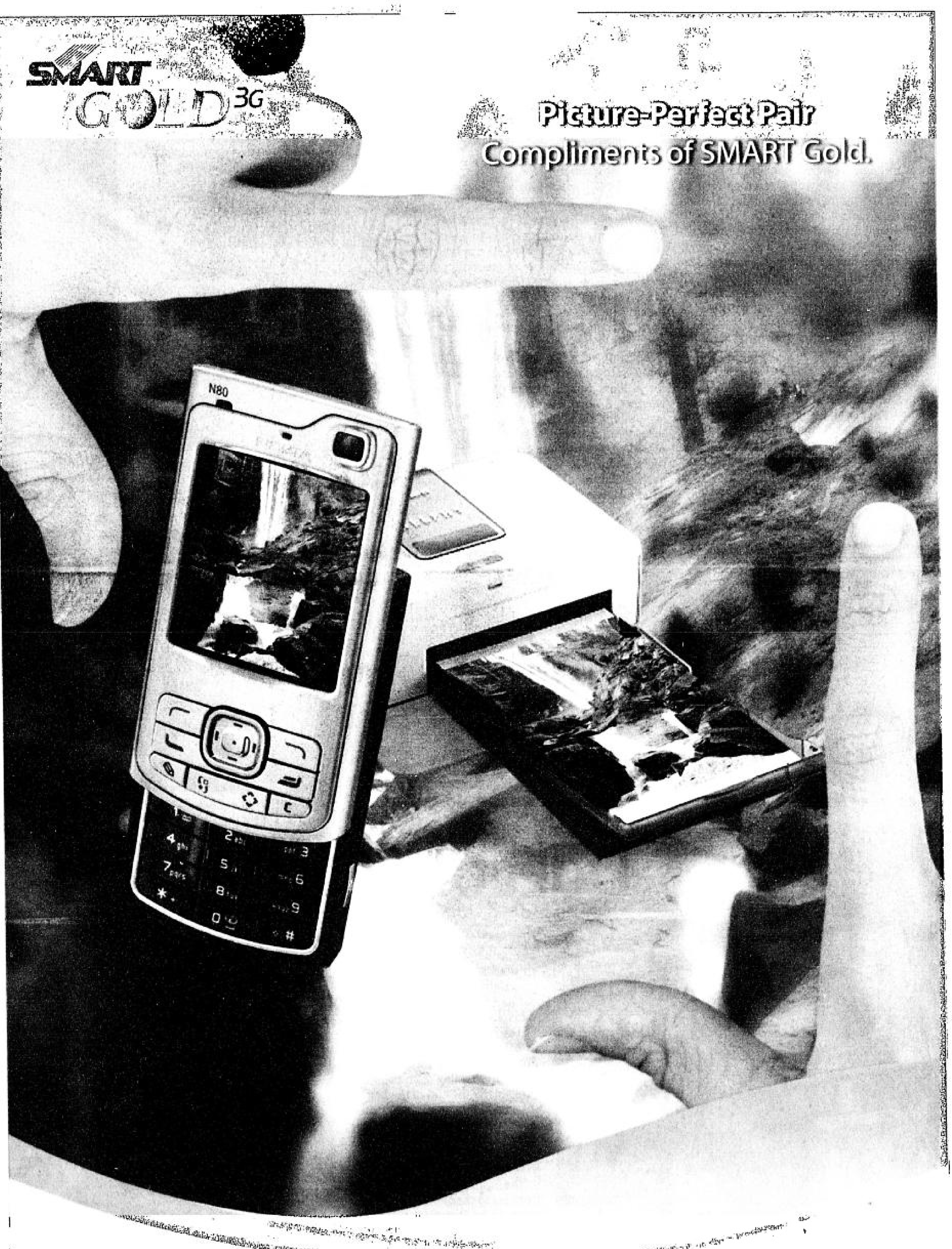
URBAN duds for him



RUFUS as a male Darna

FLORAL prints for her

A WALK in the park



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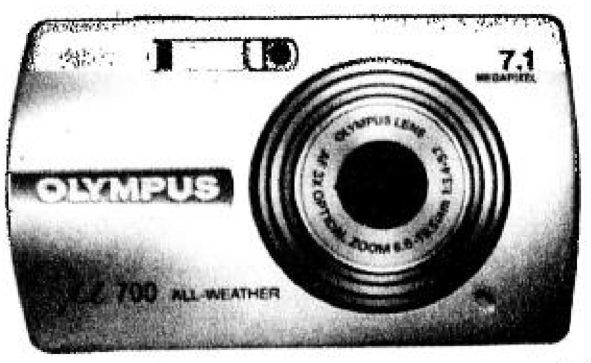
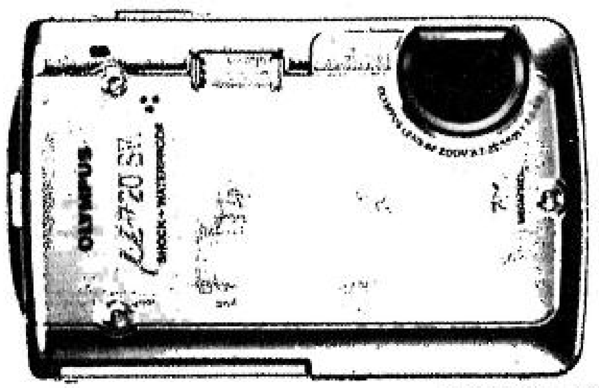
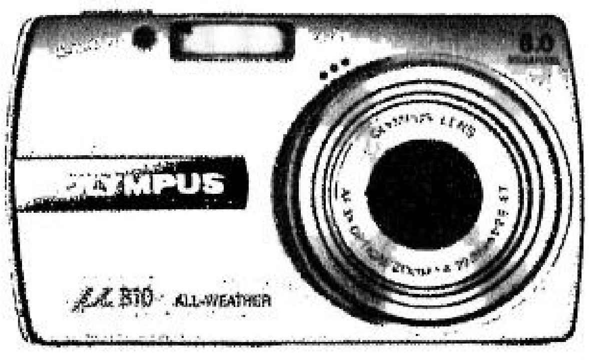


μ700



μ720 SW



μ810

# Tough Olympian lens

## The next-generation Olympus cameras are small but strong

By Anne A. Jambora

ON THE GROUND OR below the sea, nighttime or daytime, lifestyle photography is made even more versatile to anyone who can point-and-shoot. With digital imaging going as high as 8.0 million pixel resolution, a fantastic memorable snapshot blown up to 12R size is just a click away. Heck, one can even bold enough to go for 30Rs.

Don't be fooled by its diminutive appearances, though. The next-generation μ (mju) digital cameras by Olympus are tough babies designed to endure rough handling and extreme weather conditions.

"The cameras are designed for the very active and outdoor type of people but it meets the requirements of anybody. The new features simply mean more opportunity for end-user to enjoy life," said Mitsuhiro Tanaka, Olympus regional business manger for Asia and Middle East business group.

Encased in all-weather sleek metal body, the μ line records images and home movies just as well under the rain or watery environment as it would on a sunny day. Take it to the beach, on a skiing trip or rugged spelunking expedition, the handy μ guarantees to capture moments in high-definition, razor-sharp precision.

A heavy-duty imaging gadget is the μ 720SW. Its lens unit is protected by shock-absorbing material, with a shockproof electric circuit board structure that can withstand a five-foot drop. No need to panic during an accidental drop while scaling the mountain, for instance, as long as it's not over five feet. The unit has dust-proof capability, and the rigid exterior assures an optimum performance for up to 10 feet underwater, eliminating the need for underwater case. Underwater settings are either wide, macro or plain snapshot.

### Quick response

The μ 720SW features 7.1 megapixels, 3x optical zoom lens, 2.5-inch 230,000 pixels LCD, TruePic Turbo Image Processor for quick camera response that ensures image quality, Bright Capture Technology for brighter photos on dark conditions or shooting under available light. High-sensitivity settings can be adjusted up to ISO 2,500 to create natural-looking images sans the bright glare of the flash. It comes in silver, blue and brown colors.

Boasting of 8.0 megapixel capabilities is the μ 810, with durable weatherproof body for brilliant imaging results in any kind of weather. A notable feature is the Digital Image Stabilization Edit that gets rid of the blur. Incorporating two gyro-sensors to detect and record vibrations that occur when taking pictures, a blurry image can be corrected at the push of a button. Extreme blur and those taken at a shutter speed slower than 1/8th of a second, however, may not be corrected.

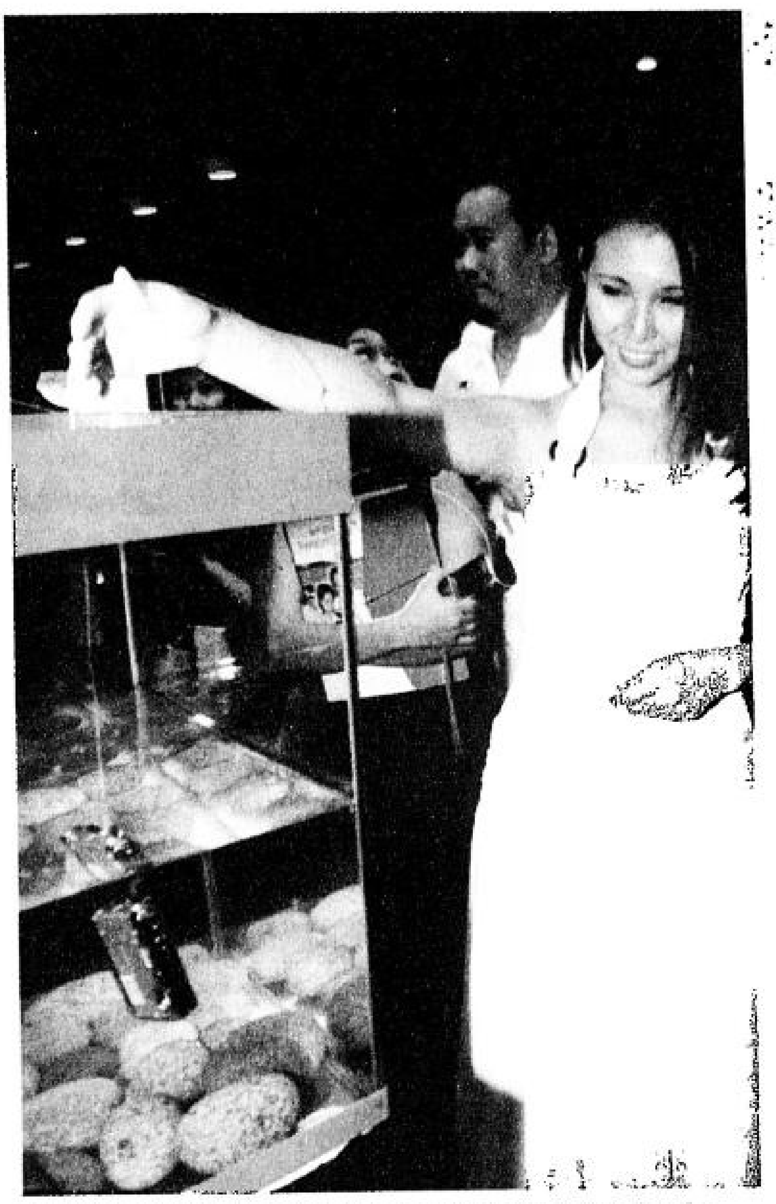
The image stabilization also prevents image blur during camera shake incurred in low-light conditions and subject blur when recording stills of fast-moving scenes by setting the camera to higher sensitivity setting and shutter speeds. In the Bright Capture mode, ISO can be set up to 3,200. A High-Precision CCD enables the camera to record images in vivid detail. It has 3x optical zoom and 2.5-inch LCD.

The last member of the μ family is μ 700. Available in silver, black, orange and blue, it has 7.1 megapixels encased in all-weather body, 3x optical zoom and 2.5-inch LCD. The Bright Capture Technology guarantees flexibility modes, with high-sensitivity settings up to ISO 2,500. It also features High-Precision CCD and TruePic Turbo Image Processor.

The μ line has multipurpose shooting functions, including exposure compensation and multiple flash modes, scene program modes, super macro mode, movie recording (with sound). Scene program modes include portrait, landscape, landscape plus portrait, night scene, night scene plus portrait, sports, indoor, candle, self-portrait, available light portrait, sunset, fireworks, museum, cuisine, behind glass, documents, beach and snow. If tinkering and experimenting isn't your thing, you can set the program in Auto mode.

"We are confident our new models will be competitive enough for the local market. We will be noticed this time as one of the leaders in electronics and digital imaging," Tanaka said.

*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*



**IN TOO DEEP.** This heavy-duty camera is just the right gadget for that adventure trip—slim enough to slip into your pocket and tough enough to handle rough environments.

**LUZ** Morido and Akimi

**RONALYN** Lavis and Rufus

**SUSAN** Munro and Sambi

**STEPHEN** Zafir and Ana Segarino with Cutie

**MARIE** Nabor with Pitoy, Kiki, Pekpek and Pucci

# Doggone fashion

**PROUD** owner Eric Kim and Frisbee champ July

From page D1

a chocolate-brown Labrador pup strutted his stuff in a red-and-gold Darna costume. Two-month-old Rufus is a "*bading*" (gay) dog, said handler Ronalyn Lavis.

The late afternoon affair began as early as noon, as participating dogs underwent a bit of pampering and grooming from people at Petspan. By the end of the beauty session, not a few female dogs were dolled up with hot-pink ponytails.

### Frisbee Labradors

The fashion show served as a front act to the main event, a Frisbee contest featuring the resort island's hefty Labrador retrievers. Both events were sponsored by Alpo and hosted by model Amanda Griffin and TV personalities Ariel and Maverick.

Aside from two in-house vets monitoring the dogs' condition, the back-to-back shows were closely guarded by Bureau of Animal Industry Welfare Division OIC Dr. Angel Mateo and Philippine Canine Club president Dinky Santos.

Nestlé (makers of Purina Alpo) officials led by Lester Tay, Carol Adolfo, Angela Operaña and Dr. Toti Baylon were also present.

Mateo spoke briefly on animal welfare and reminded pet owners to observe the five basic animal rights: freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from physical discomfort and pain; freedom from injury and disease; freedom to conform to essential behavior pattern; and freedom from fear and distress.

"If it's a nocturnal animal, then you have to provide it with the right environment," he said. "Putting a caged predator beside a caged prey, for example, will instill fear on the latter and frustrate the former. Both animals will, thus, be subject to undue stress."

You may dress up your pet occasionally, he added, but this must be done within the proper "context." Since the practice of dressing up animals originated in cold, industrialized countries, certain articles of clothing may not be suitable for big and extremely hairy dogs who have found their way in the Philippines.

"Be sure that the clothes you buy are not too tight or too frilly as to hurt the dog or cause him or her allergies," he said. "I don't think it's wise to dress up your pets 24/7. In the first place, it's normal for them to run around without clothes!"

As many as 10 dogs took part in the Alpo Dog Frisbee Challenge, which showcased not only the contestants' catching prowess, but the invisible bond they share with their owners.

July, a Labrador owned by Korean expat Eric Kim, won the top prize. Landing second was Sangore, a black Labrador owned by Janet Dolera, followed by Sambi, owned by Susan Munro.

Crowd favorite and last year's champion, Friday, a Labrador belonging to Hey Jude! main man Jude Lee, bagged the Favorite Pet Award.

Since these dogs brimmed with energy and jumped with considerable speed and force, it would be great to see a caped retriever a la Superman next year as he tries to defy gravity in hot pursuit of a flying Frisbee.

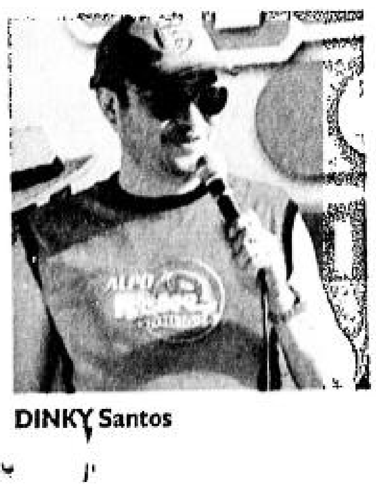
Apart from trophies and cash prizes, winners received Alpo products and gift packs. Indeed, these loyal dogs deserve every treat that comes their way considering the trouble they go through to please their masters.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

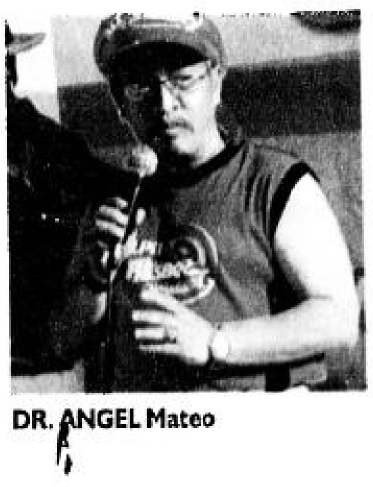
**AMANDA** Griffin

FRISBEE
CHALLENGE

**PURINA** Alpo executives (from left) Angela Operana, Lester Tay, Nestor Ponce III, Douglas Baarde, Ariel Panaligan, Toti Baylon and Carol Adolfo



**DINKY** Santos



**DR. ANGEL** Mateo

**UNLIKE** other schools, Montessori adapts to the child.

# School teaches tots 'life skills'

THE LEARNING GARDEN MONTESSORI School (LGMS) in BF Homes, Parañaque applies the Montessori education system, which develops not only a student's mental ability but also life skills such as creativity, initiative and discipline.

Julie Jean de Guzman-Zurbano, director of the school, has a master's degree in Psychology and attended a Montessori training at Vancouver, Canada.

Unlike schools where students are forced to adapt to the curriculum, Montessori adapts to the child, Zurbano said. Students learn at their own pace in an environment designed just for them.

"The great thing about this setup is that we are not only teaching them to be good in academics but more importantly, develop life skills like problem solving, courtesy or self expression," Zurbano explained. "It is something that can be useful when they grow up. It's more like education for life."

"The advantage of the Montessori approach is that it provides student with high aptitude more challenges and advanced presentations," she added.

"Likewise, those who take a little bit time to absorb lessons are given extra work to meet class requirements and are not compelled to go on advanced lessons that he or she is not ready for. The Montessori way is to teach according to a student's natural capacity to learn."

LGMS also offers Casa, a program designed for a mixed class. This is said to help students of different age levels to develop concentration, order and love for work at the same time encourage interaction and socialization. Activities include practical life exercises, sensorial materials, language areas, sciences and mathematics. Learning Garden Montessori School is at 266 Aguirre Ave., Phase III, BF Homes, Parañaque. Call 8204064 or fax 8075990.

**STUDENTS ARE** taught not only to be good in academics but, more importantly, to develop life skills.

## A new twist of gata-nomic proportions!

You may not realize it, but there are probably 1001 ways by which you can prepare gata dishes – from breakfast to dinner, from appetizer to dessert, or from soups to beverages. All you need is a twist of your imagination, and presto! An eternity of mouth-watering dishes.

Gata is so versatile you can have it in any way your appetite dictates. If you love hot dishes, you'll definitely enjoy the way gata neutralizes the bite of chili in Bicol Express. On the other hand, if you have a sensitive tongue that prefers the ticklish taste, try Pagsanjan's sinigang sa kanduli for its gata-enriched texture. And if you think you know your dinuguan, wait till you get a taste of Quezon's own version, which they prepare with the right amount of gata for that extra tangy surprise.

Yes, Filipinos all over the country have long had this love affair with gata. But anyone who's ever tried extracting gata from a fresh coconut will know: it's not that easy.

That's why Carnation, your favorite cooking milk, now brings you this piece of delicious news. You can now have your favorite gata dish as often as you wish with new CARNATION COCO EVAP! It combines the richness of Carnation Evap and the natural taste of coconut milk. It even comes with easy-open tabs so you can readily pour it into any dish.

So embark on that gastronomic gata adventure! Try it on your favorite gata recipe, or whip up an original to perk up your weekly menu. On pasta? On dessert? Aahhh, you can only imagine what more you can do with Carnation Coco Evap!

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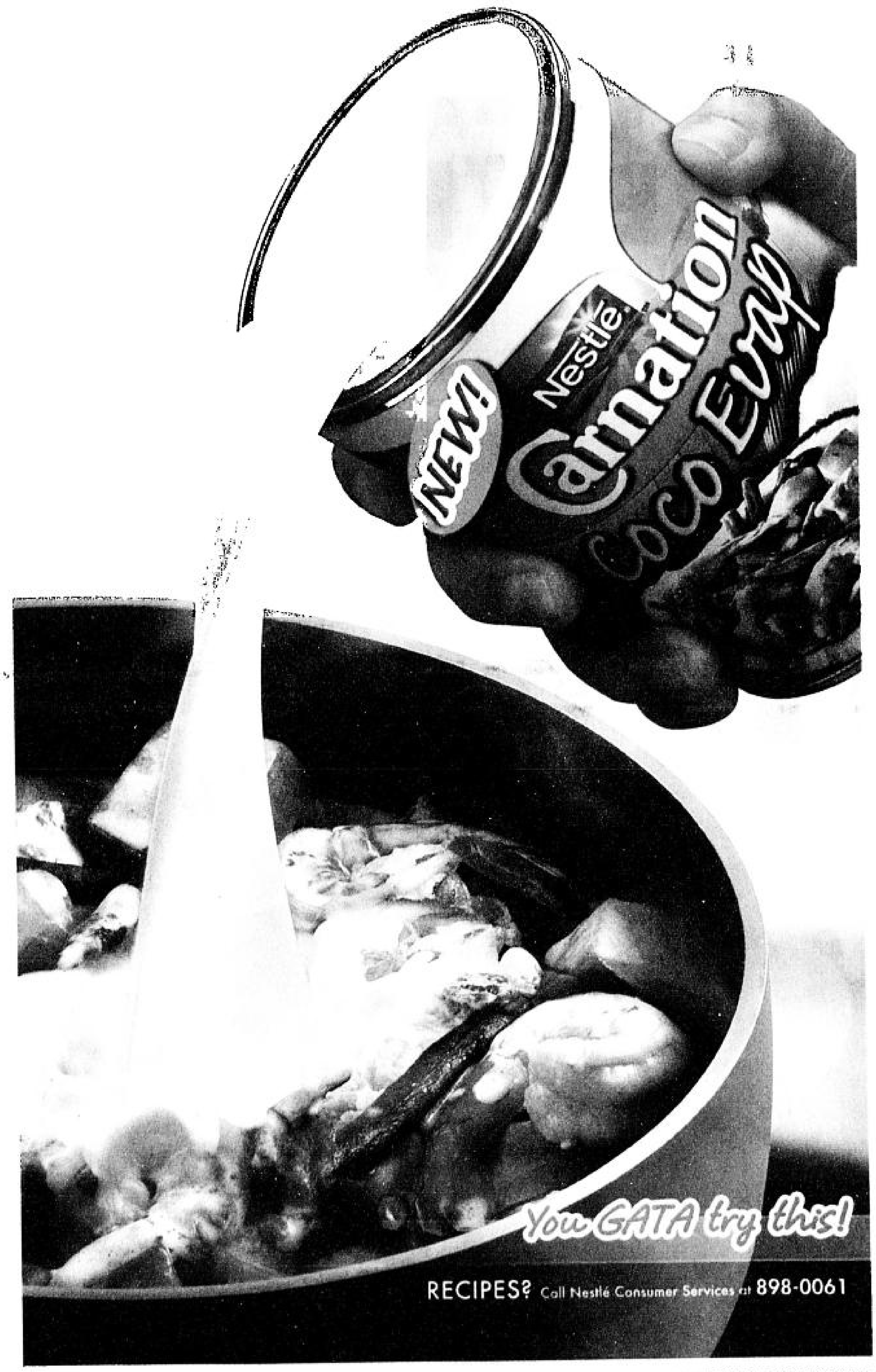

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# Lighting the way worldwide

PHILIPS, THE WORLD'S LARGEST lighting manufacturer, with more than 2.4 billion incandescent lamps produced every year, continues to set the pace in the lighting industry as the first-choice innovative partner for creative and cost-effective lighting solutions.

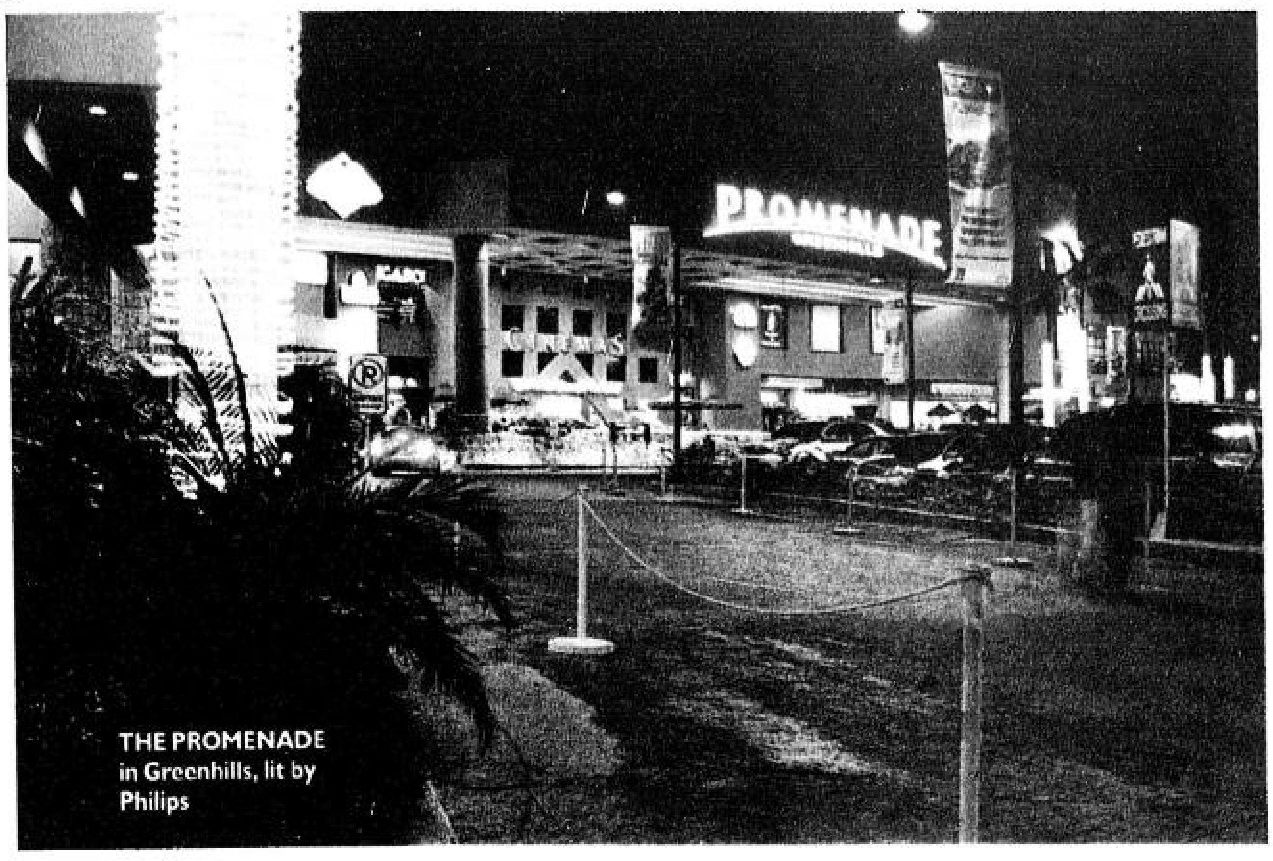
For the past five years, Philips Lighting Solutions has been greeting the new year with a big bang as its Halogena Brilliant Crystal bulbs light the famous New Year's Eve Ball above the Times Square in New \York. Last year, Philips lit the New Year's Eve Ball with solid-state or LEDs, part of the growing solid-state lighting category that is set to revolutionize the lighting industry with drastic reductions in electricity consumption and costs.

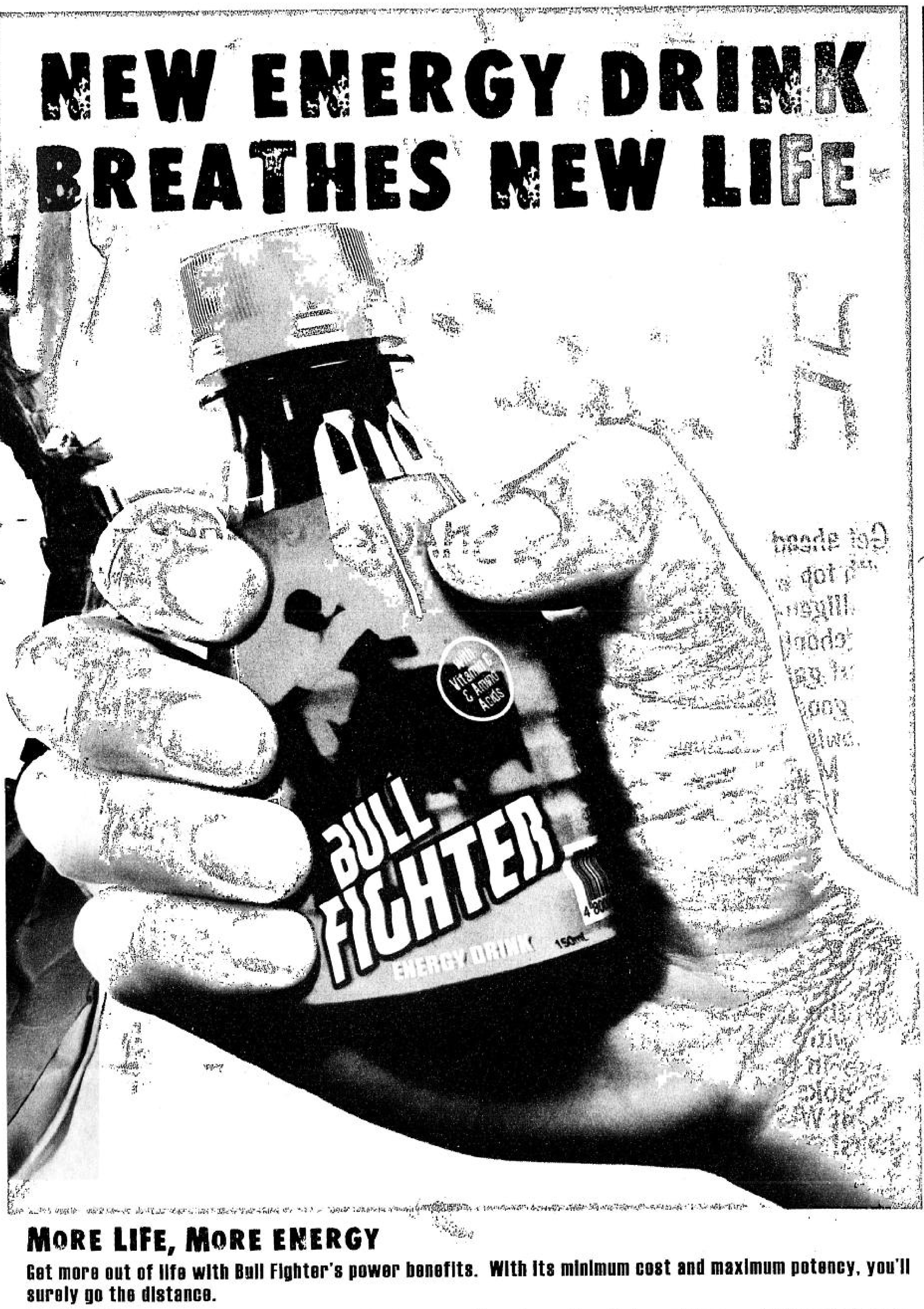
Philips lighting products are widely used not just in homes but also in many professional applications such as 30 percent of offices, 65 percent of the world's top airports, 30 percent of hospitals, 35 percent of cars and 55 percent of the world's most famous football stadiums.

One reason for Philips' leadership position in the global lighting industry market is its ability to create revolutionary products that achieve new levels in lighting quality and performance. Once such example is the comprehensive lighting plan it has done for the 300th birth anniversary of the Khalsa Panth (a Sikh religion) in India. Philips incorporated street lighting, temple lighting, fort lighting and a sound-and-light show using a combination of floodlights and fiber-optic lighting systems. This marvel of light won the prestigious Illuminating Engineering Society of North America Award.

Locally, Philips has transformed The Promenade in Greenhills shopping complex into a landmark where city, people and light come together.

At the 23rd Asean Games in November last year, Philips also provided the complete lighting system for the Trace Aquatic Center in Los Banos, Laguna, the Games' venue for the swimming competitions. And the company also provides lighting to a number of high-end shops in Metro Manila as well as all showrooms of Toyota.


THE PROMENADE in Greenhills, lit by Philips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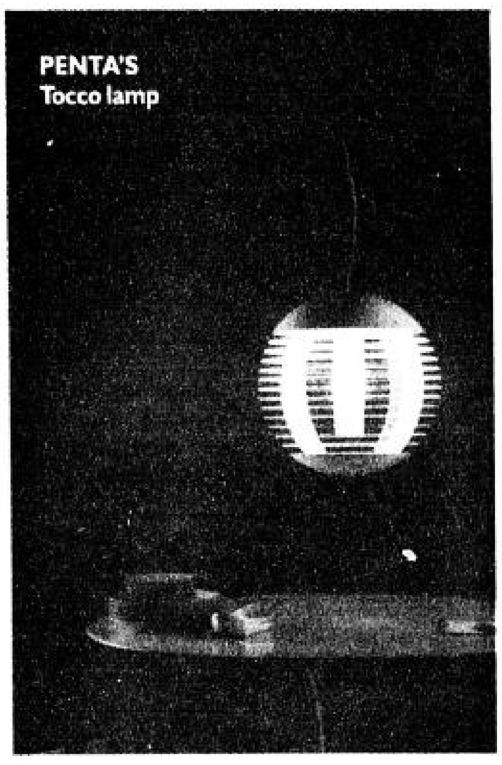

PENTA'S Tocco lamp

# Luxury lamps enhance furniture displays

THE CONTEMPORARY LIGHTING SOLUTIONS by the Italian brand Penta have illuminated homes, hotels, restaurants and ships all over the world. In the Philippines, Penta's unique design concepts light up the furniture displays of Furnitalia.

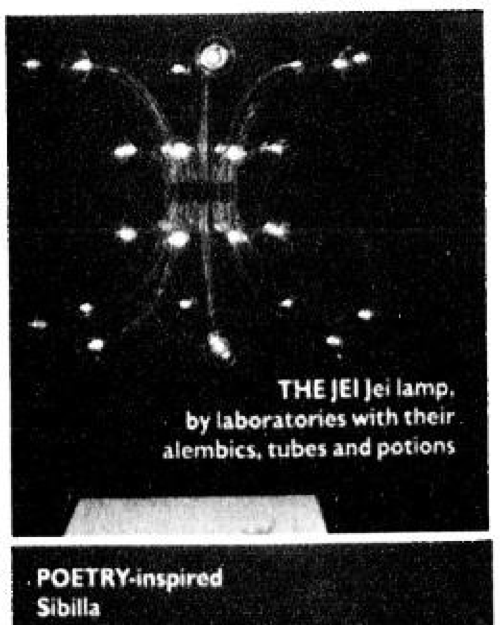
The country's exclusive distributor of upscale Italian brands in the furnishing sector has a new sprawling location at The Fort. It has three full storeys of furniture showcases, enhanced by Penta's ceiling, floor, wall and table lamps.

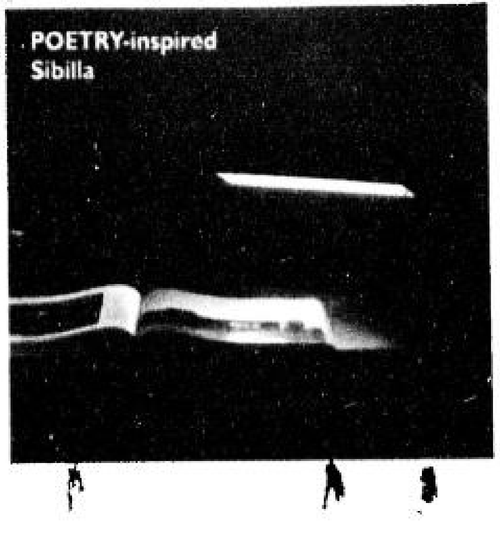
Guided by its key elements of tradition, elegance and essential design, Penta focuses on matching different materials, integrating metal, wood, blown glass and fabric into light sculptures.

Penta president Gabriele Riboldi was recently in the country to visit the lifestyle store.

"Penta lamps have an elegant quality to them that can enhance lavish spaces or enliven plain ones. From the simple to the ornate, their products are stamped with good quality and ingenious design sense," Florence Ko, Furnitalia managing director said.

Visit Furnitalia at 30th St. and Rizal Drive Crescent Park, West Bonifacio Global City Call 8191887.


THE JEI Jei lamp, by laboratories with their alembics, tubes and potions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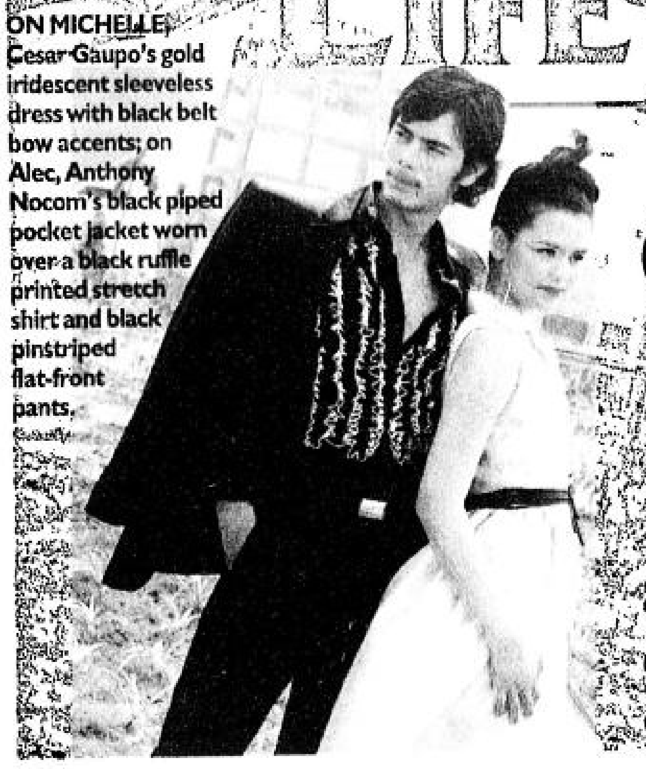

**ON MICHELLE,** Cesar Gaupo's gold iridescent sleeveless dress with black belt bow accents; on **Alec,** Anthony Nocom's black piped pocket jacket worn over a black ruffle printed stretch shirt and black pinstriped flat-front pants.

# One mall chain, four fashion aces

SM Mall of Asia's opening is also a milestone of sorts for designers Cesar Gaupo, Lulu Tan Gan, Efren Ocampo and Mike dela Rosa

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**By Alex Y. Vergara**

THE COUNTRY'S leading mall chain, which began as a small shoe store on Carriedo Street in Manila nearly five decades ago, has come a long way with SM Mall of Asia's formal opening yesterday.

With a total floor area of 400,000 sq m, the mall, which sits on a 60-hectare reclaimed property along the scenic Manila Bay area in Pasay City, is the biggest of its kind in the country, if not in Southeast Asia.

Apart from regular attractions also present in SM's other properties, the new mall boasts of such exclusive crowd drawers as a 600-seat IMAX theater (with the biggest screen of its kind in the world at 21,995 meters), 150 or so indoor and outdoor dining outlets, and an Olympic-size ice-skating rink.

Of course, at the heart of every SM mall is its anchor department store. Over the decades, these department stores have introduced a fair mix of stylish as well as affordable high-street fashion into the mainstream. In keeping with its location, the theme of SM's newest department store is inspired by water in its various forms.

## Steady growth

In many ways, SM's steady growth mirrors the careers of four of the country's top fashion designers. Cesar Gaupo and Lulu Tan Gan started their careers as two of SM's in-house designers (designing shoes in Tan Gan's case), while Efren Ocampo and Mike dela Rosa were among the first batch of talents the then department store tapped in the early 1980s to beef up offerings in its Boutique Square.

Ocampo cites Ninoy Aquino's death in 1983 as a catalyst that hastened his entry to SM. His made-to-order business experienced a slump soon after the opposition leader was assassinated, prompting him to look for more viable options.

"SM has been very receptive to our ideas," says Ocampo. "As a whole, I have very little reason to complain."

Dela Rosa joined SM in 1981 via another designer who relabeled the former's

ONE MALL/ E2

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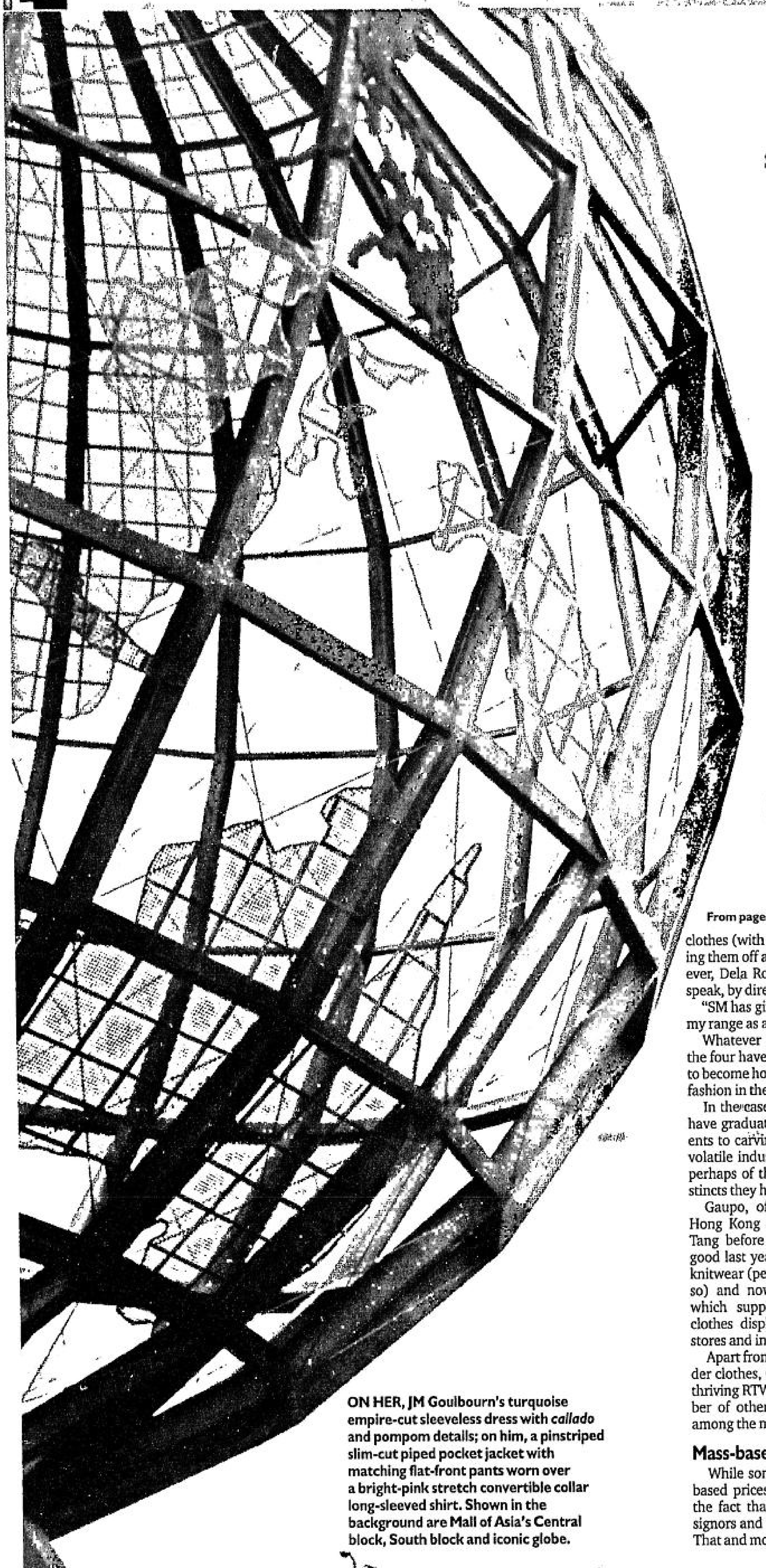
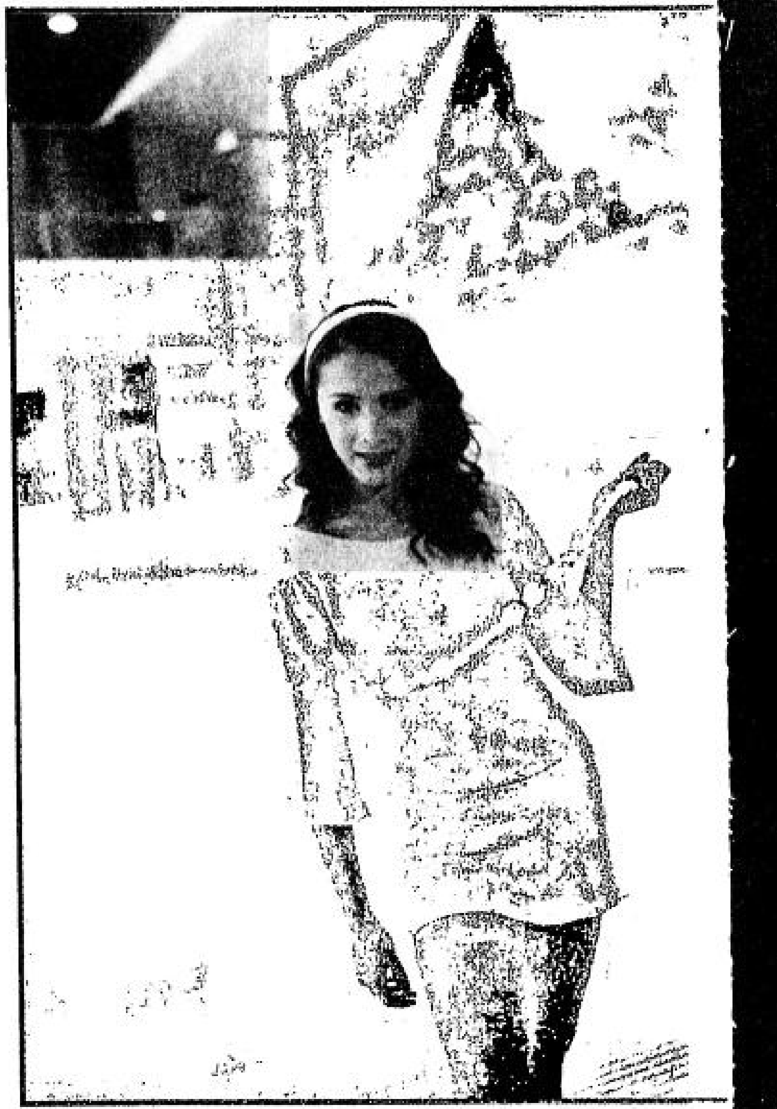


These
designers'
staying power
is proof
perhaps
of their
creativity and
the market
instincts
they honed
while
working
at SM



**TAN GAN'S** yellow knitted quarter-sleeved top worn with yellow micro shorts. Background shows country's first Olympic-size ice-skating rink at the Mall of Asia.

# One mall c

From page E1

clothes (with Dela Rosa's consent) before passing them off as his. The next time around, however, Dela Rosa came out of the closet, so to speak, by directly dealing with SM executives.

"SM has given me a bigger platform to show my range as a designer," he says.

Whatever route they have chosen to take, the four have grown with SM over the decades to become household names and pillars of local fashion in their own right.

In the case of Gaupo and Tan Gan, the two have graduated from being SM's in-house talents to carving out niches for themselves in a volatile industry. Their staying power is proof perhaps of their creativity and the market instincts they honed while working at SM.

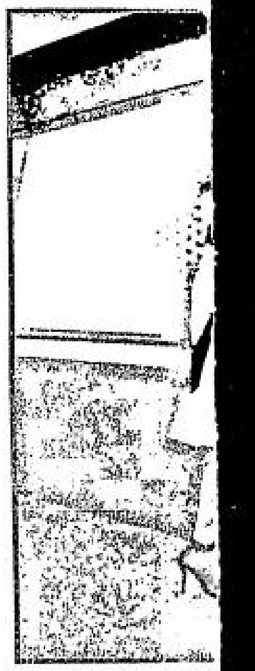
Gaupo, of course, spent several years in Hong Kong as creative director of Shanghai Tang before returning to the Philippines for good last year. Tan Gan chose to specialize in knitwear (perhaps the only local designer to do so) and now owns and manages a factory, which supplies the raw materials for her clothes displayed at several SM department stores and independent outlets.

Apart from designing bridal and made-to-order clothes, Ocampo and Dela Rosa both have thriving RTW lines displayed at SM and a number of other department stores. All four are among the mall chain's top-selling consignors.

## Mass-based prices

While some designers may find SM's mass-based prices a bit stifling, there's no denying the fact that the mall chain offers both consignors and tenants a huge and steady market. That and more have made Tan Gan and her colleagues stick it out with SM.

**MIKE dela Rosa's V-necked chiffon bubble dress with matching long-sleeved shrug. Photo shows mall's foodstrip area for al fresco dining.**



**DELA Rosa's black-
dress with belt bow
Asia's bridgeway o**

"Mixing business with creativity is a tough balancing act," Tan Gan confesses. "But therein lies the challenge."

With the exception of Gaupo, who chose to stay put at SM Makati where his "wearable" pieces are displayed, the three are among a dozen or so designers affiliated with Mall of Asia who are showing their latest RTW collections.

"I'm still
RTW," Gaupo
"RTW King,"
the-rack) fash
coming from
that out, I'm li

Indeed, ov
laboratory of
well as establi
Rosa isn't pas

**ON HER, JM Goulbourn's turquoise empire-cut sleeveless dress with *callado* and pompom details; on him, a pinstriped slim-cut piped pocket jacket with matching flat-front pants worn over a bright-pink stretch convertible collar long-sleeved shirt. Shown in the background are Mall of Asia's Central block, South block and iconic globe.**

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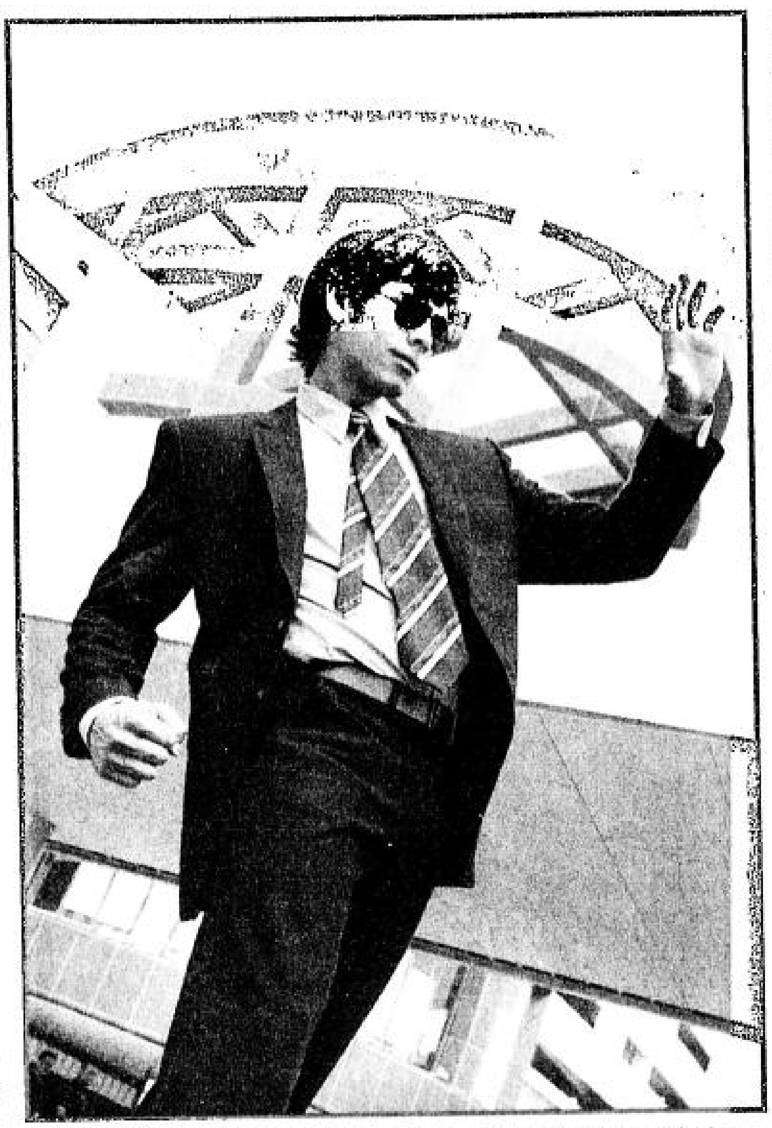
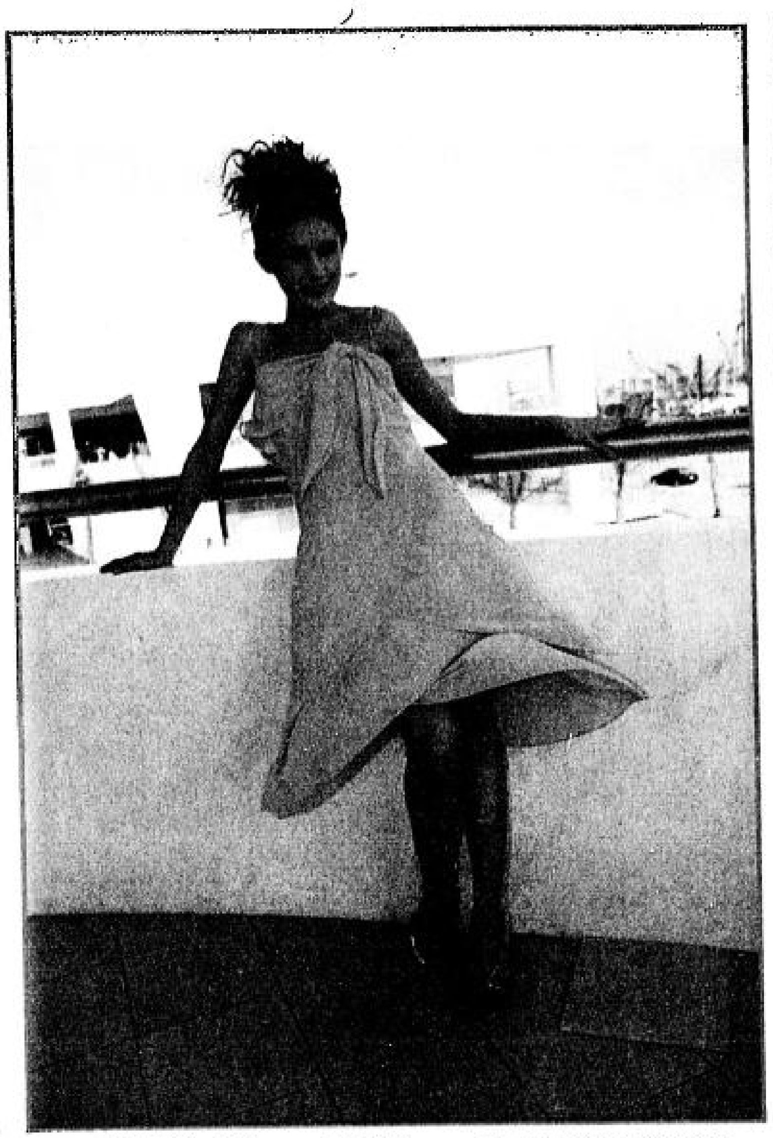
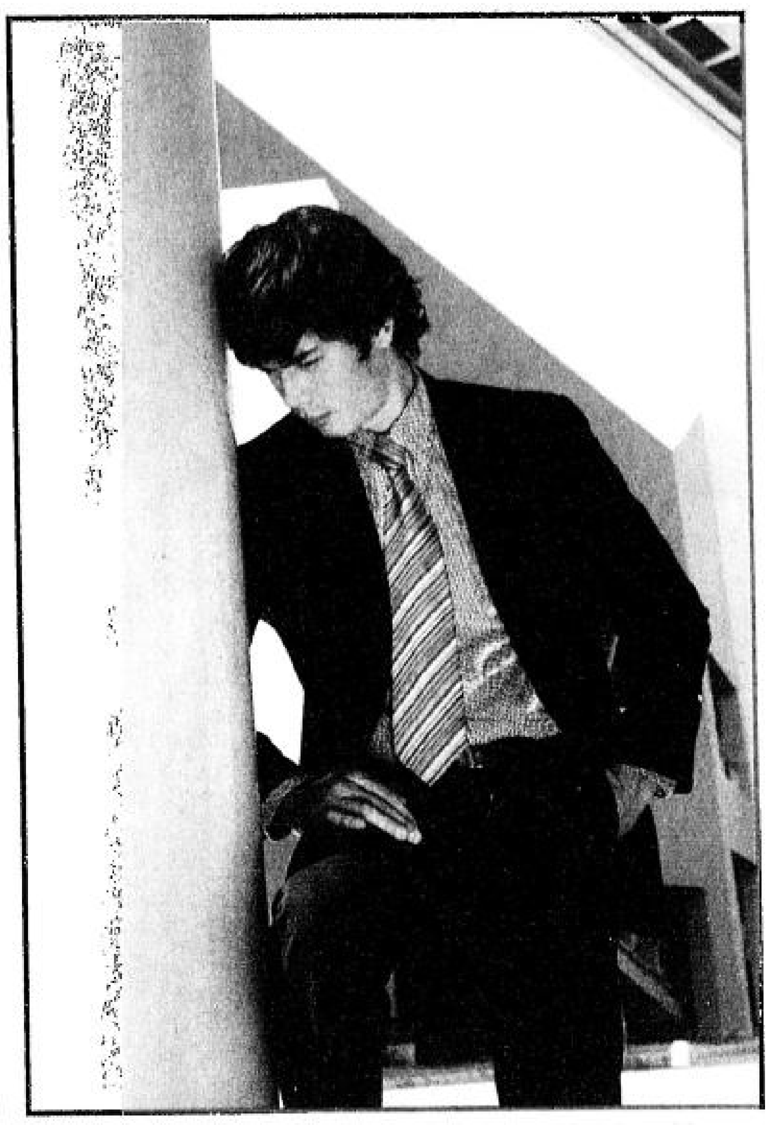


**ANTHONY** Nocom's blue-black two-button single-breasted jacket worn over a mustard-gold stretch shirt with striped tie and a dark blue stretch flat-front pants



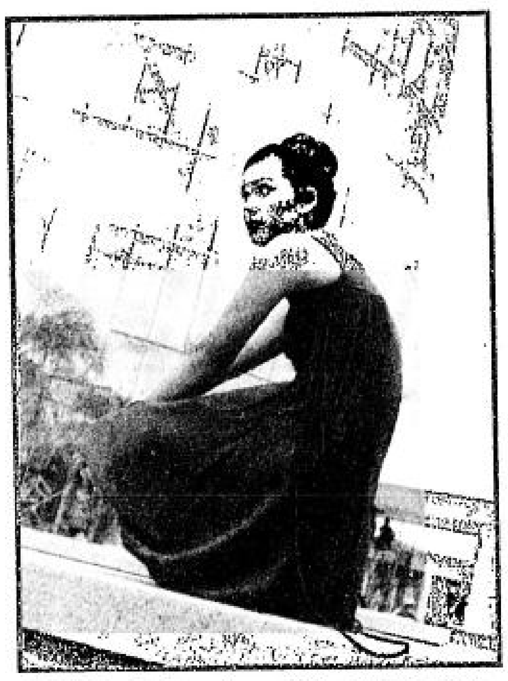
**YELLOW-GOLD** chiffon spaghetti-strapped layered dress by Efren Ocampo



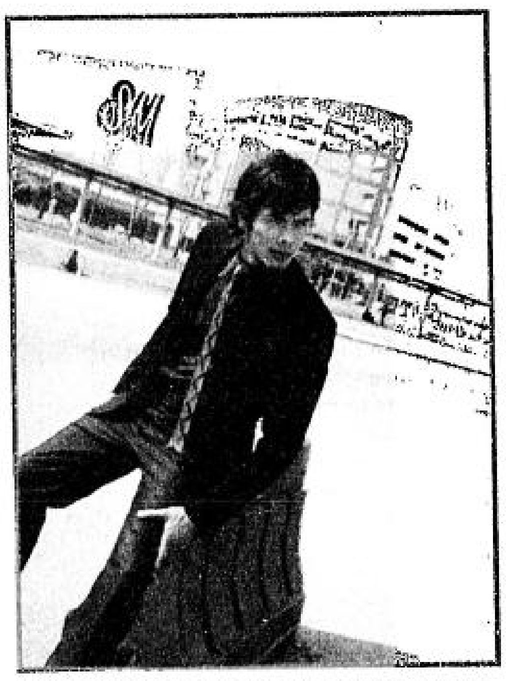
**NOCOM'S** dark-brown two-button single-breasted jacket with matching flat-front slim pants worn with a pinstriped shirt and striped tie

# hain, four fashion aces

and-white eyelet wrap
. Photo shows Mall of
erlooking Manila Bay.



**DELA** Rosa's sleeveless chiffon bubble dress with matching bolero-style shrug with cord details. Shown in photo is the mall's glass curtain.



**NOCOM'S** black slim-cut body jacket worn over a black long-sleeved shirt and checkered fuchsia tie and a black gray pinstriped stretch low-rise pants

for a new approach to
dubbed as the country's
is. "There's more to (off-
ian the predictable pieces
and Bangkok. Until I find
my exposure to Makati."
years, SM has become a
or designers with radical as
leas given new twists. Dela
that opportunity as he introduces his Blanco y Negro or black-and - white line via Mall of Asia.

"If these clothes in basic designs do well, then I will take it as a cue to introduce more edgy pieces and devote my entire space to black-and-white pieces," says Dela Rosa.

The collection consists of printed chiffon dresses, cotton separates and eyelet blouses. Although his tent dresses (as their description implies) have loose silhouettes, they come with sashes to provide wearers more options. It's also his way of slowly weaning Filipino women from the overexposed empire silhouette toward the belted look.

"The belted look may be the rage abroad," says Dela Rosa, "but it has yet to catch on in the Philippines."

## Soft pieces

Ocampo, on the other hand, is keeping everything soft and close to the chest with a collection of empire-cut chiffon dresses, from bright to neutral colors. A number of pieces come with hints of beadwork or draping. His clients, he says, can't seem to get enough of this silhouette.

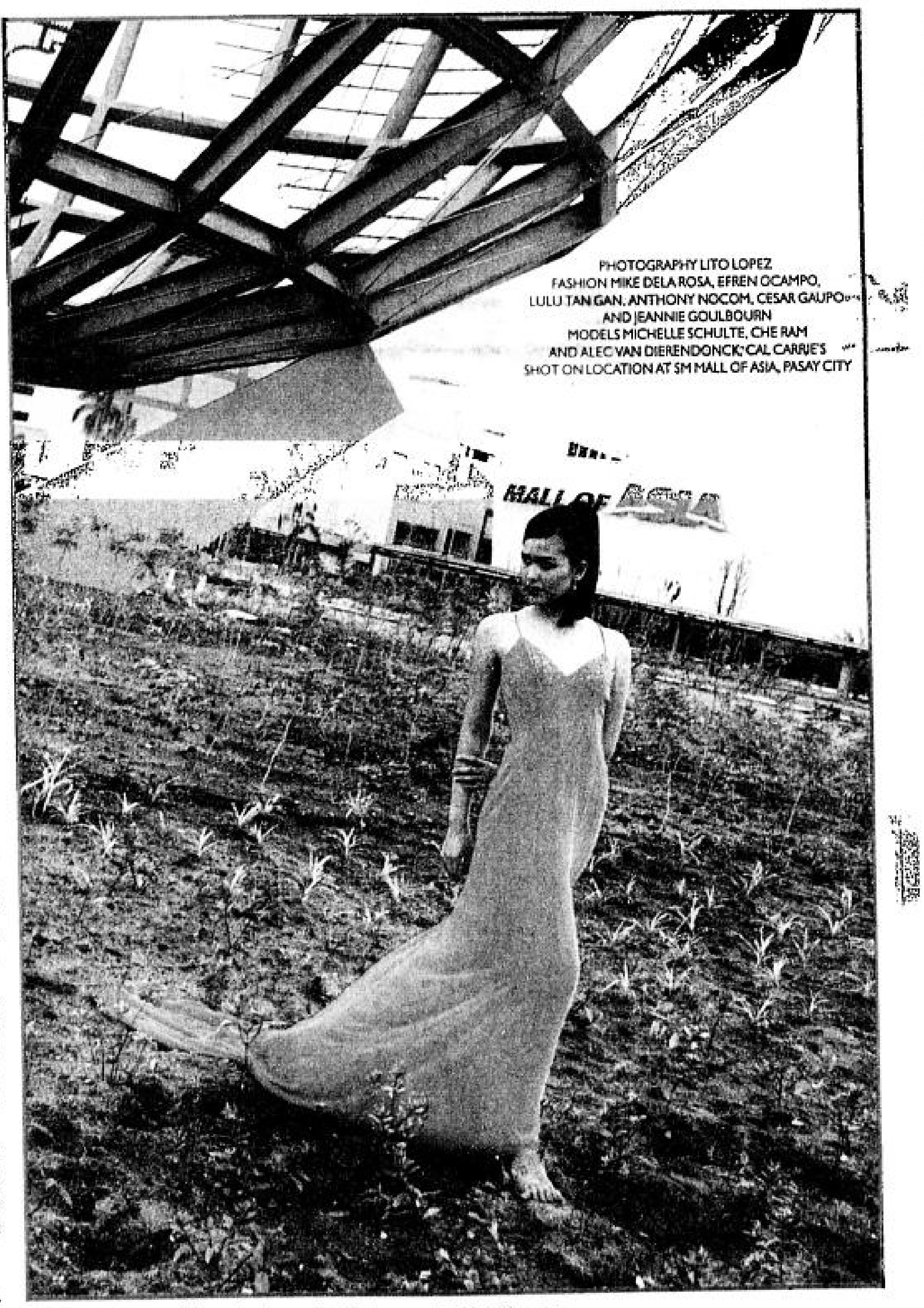
"Empire dresses," he says, "flatter the woman's figure and relieve her of the constant pressure to lose weight."

Because of its location and architecture, Mall of Asia is a potential magnet for local as well as foreign tourists. As such, Tan Gan has chosen to draw inspiration from resort wear with a collection consisting of basic tops, bubble shorts, skirts and culottes in various greens, blues and earth tones.

"The future is bright for Mall of Asia," she says. "They're not only building a mall, but a city that's bound to attract tourists. We all could use a resort by the city. With advances in technology, they can perhaps clean the water and turn part of the bay into a beach resort."

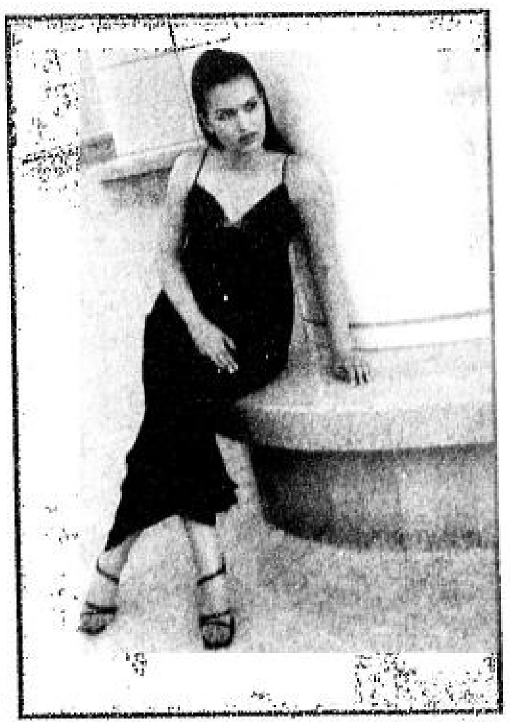
Indeed, the potential such a scenario holds for pushing the local RTW business beyond Philippine shores is reason enough to keep the four designers excited and people behind the SM mall chain on their toes.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

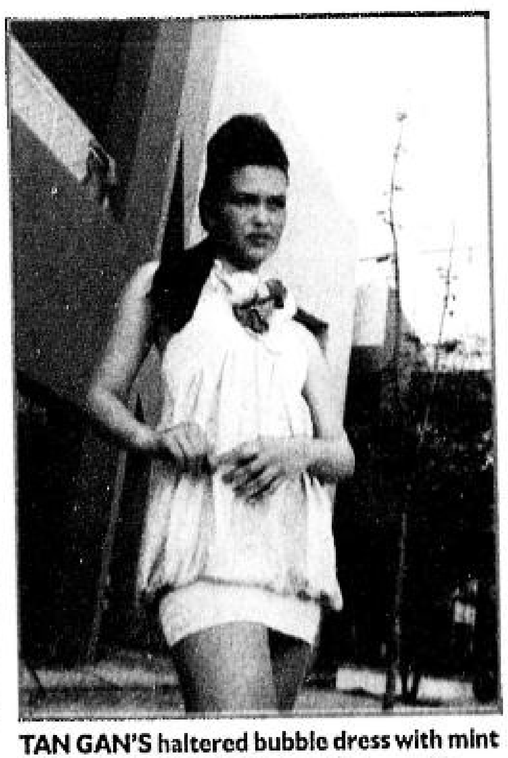


PHOTOGRAPHY LITO LOPEZ
FASHION MIKE DELA ROSA, EFREN OCAMPO,
LULU TAN GAN, ANTHONY NOCOM, CESAR GAUPO
AND JEANNIE GOULBOURN
MODELS MICHELLE SCHULTE, CHE RAM
AND ALEC VAN DIERENDONCK; CAL CARRIE'S
SHOT ON LOCATION AT SM MALL OF ASIA, PASAY CITY

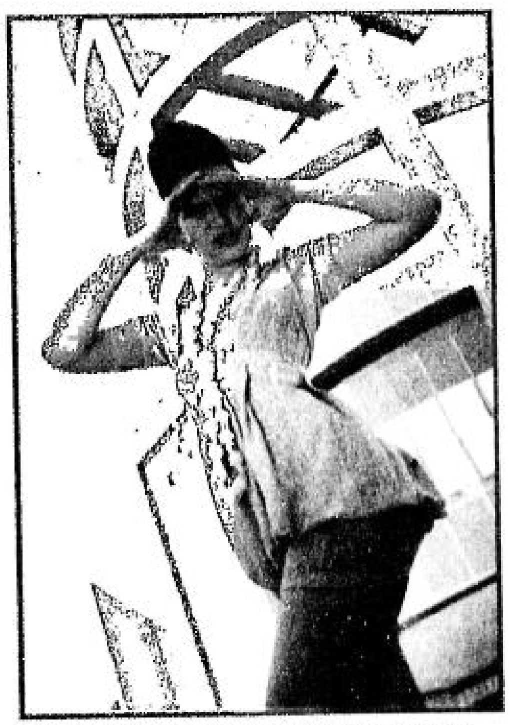
**OCAMPO'S** coral beaded spaghetti-strapped fishtail gown



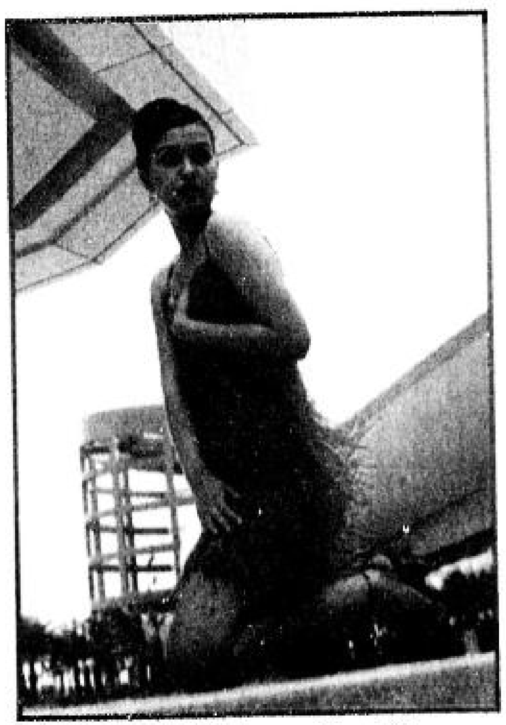
**BLACK** spaghetti-strapped rhinestoned gown by Ocampo. Shown in photo are white pillars forming part of the mall's main drop-off area.



**TAN GAN'S** haltered bubble dress with mint and gold glit. Shown in photo is the mall's bridgeway connecting the Central block and the South block.



**TAN GAN'S** empire-cut bubble dress with blue and gold glit worn with blue shrug.



**OCAMPO'S** fuchsia dress with ostrich-feather accents

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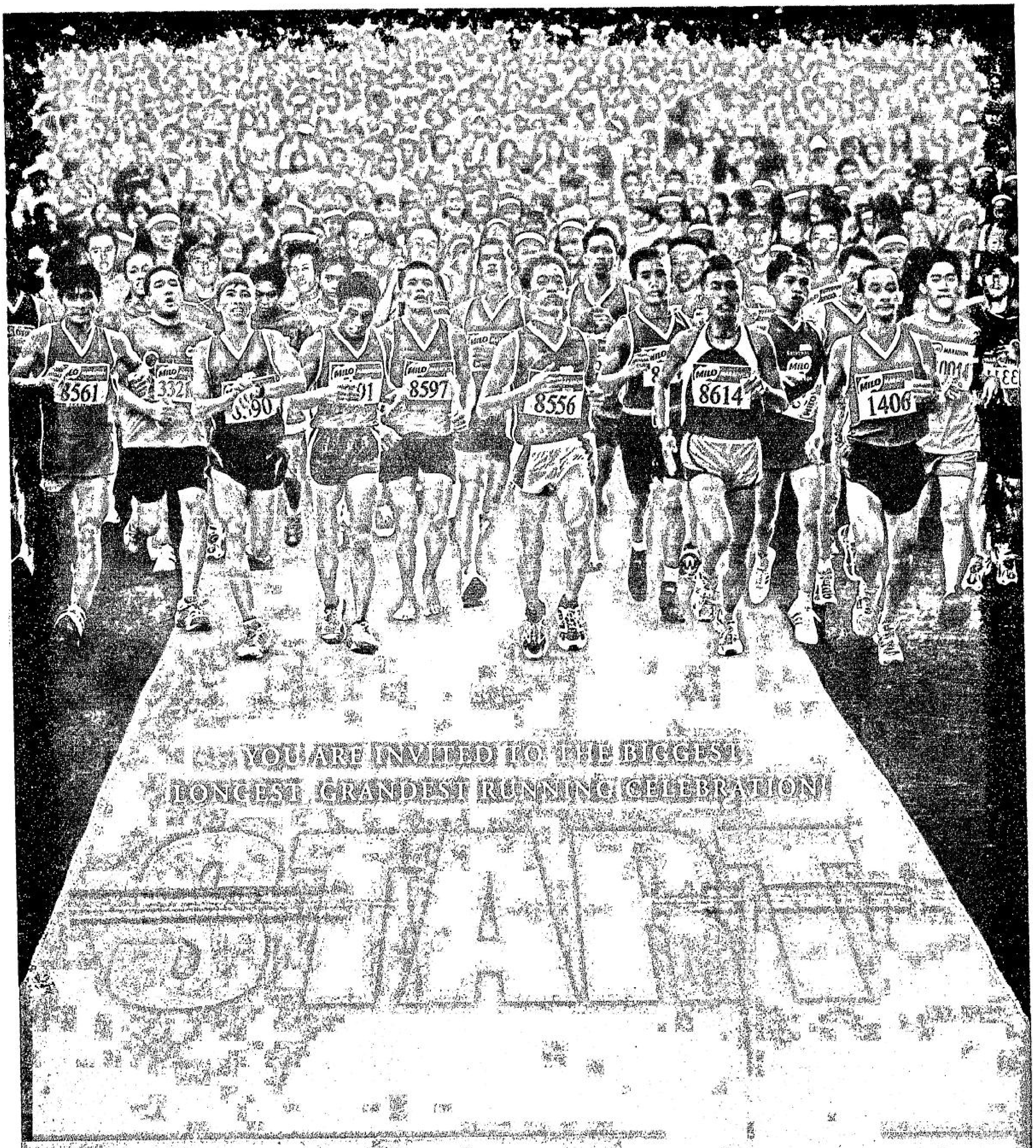
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LONGEST, GRANDEST RUNNING CELEBRATION
8561
3321
8597
8556
8614
1406

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| Tagbilaran City | February 5, 2006 | Mr. Dionisio Balite c/o Joel Rosario (038) 411-5747<br>Office of the Provincial Sports Commission, 3/F Capitol Building, Carlos P. Garcia Avenue |
| Batangas City | February 12, 2006 | Mr. Manolo Perlada (043) 723-3794<br>City Council for Youth Affairs, 5 P. Dandan Street |
| Dumaguete City | February 19, 2006 | Mr. Jose Guirit c/o Fred Abio (035) 225-1662<br>Traffic Management Office, Sta. Catalina Street |
| Puerto Princesa | February 26, 2006 | Mr. Eric Yayen c/o Anthony Baisa (048) 434-8650<br>Bodega Site Computer Center, Rizal Avenue |
| Lucena City | March 5, 2006 | Mr. Lou Vizcocho c/o Elvie Postrado (042) 710-2649<br>Lucena City Lotto Station, Ignacio Tan Building, Quezon Avenue |
| Cavite City | June 25, 2006 | Vice Mayor Dino Chua c/o Christopher Paredes<br>(046) 431-1485 / (0919) 248-9516<br>Vice Mayor HQ, 2/F Cavite City Hall, Samonte Park |
| General Santos City | July 2, 2006 | Mr. Vic Sai c/o Maureen Rodriguez (083) 302-3285<br>City Oval Plaza |
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| Davao City | July 30, 2006 | Vic Sai (082) 222-4595 / (0921) 594-9303<br>1008 Mt. Apo Street |
| Naga City | August 6, 2006 | Pedro Lee c/o Efren Teves (054) 473-5717 / 473-5715<br>Aristocrat Hotel, Elias Angeles Street |
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| Laoag City | August 20, 2006 | Mr. Michael Keon c/o Cathy or Fanny (077) 770-3664<br>Marcos Sports Stadium |
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| Tarlac City | September 24, 2006 | Mr. Arnold Rodriguez (045) 982-0190 / (0928) 766-5540<br>City Sports Development Office, City Hall Lobby, Tarlac City Hall |
| Legazpi City | October 1, 2006 | Mr. Rustom Bustamante<br>(052) 820-6037 / (0916) 483-1684 |
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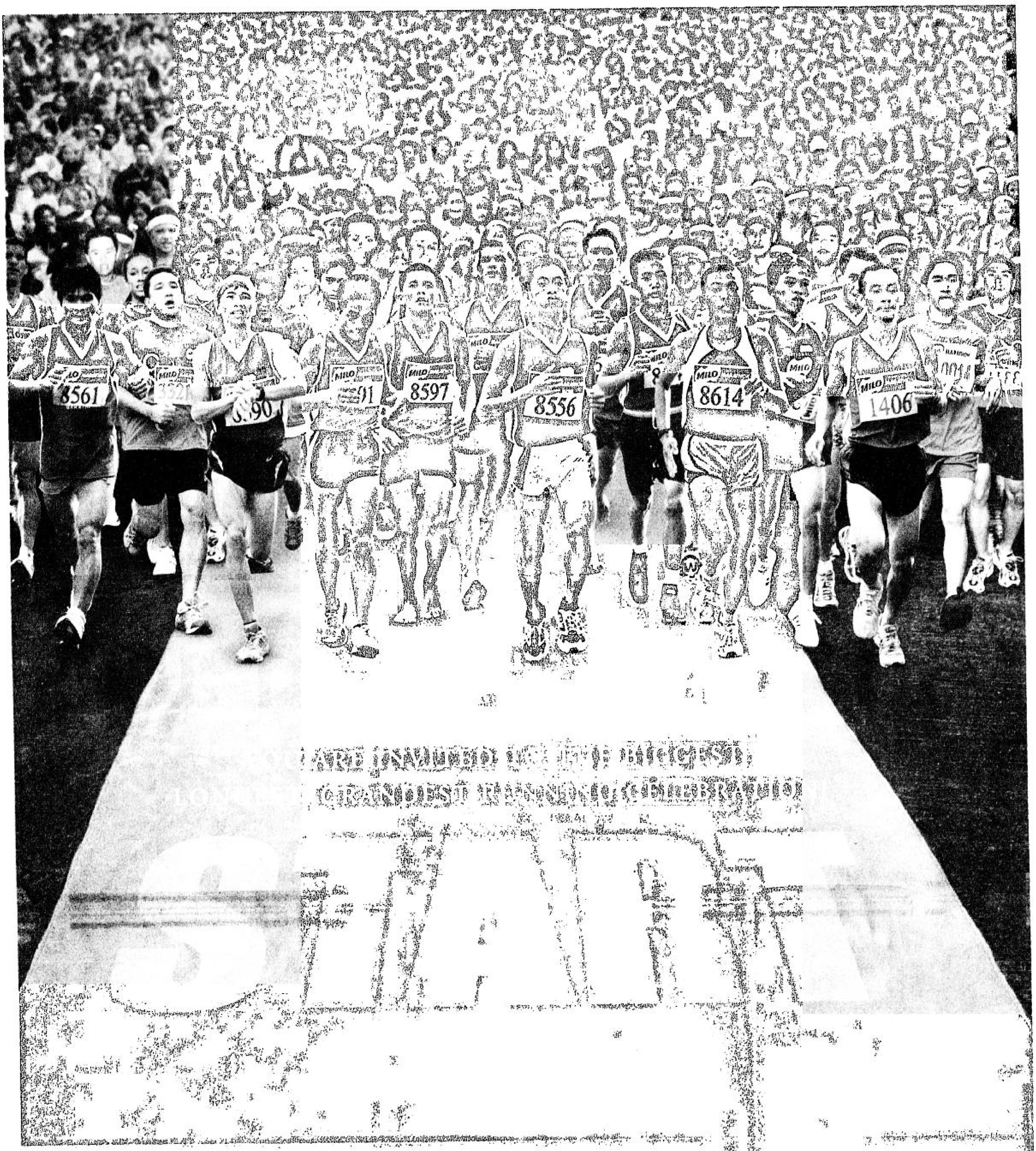

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*Editor* **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

TUTONG!
OSANG...
NANO PO!

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

# Berling, Chayong and Ute

**By Gilda Cordero-Fernando**
*Contributor*

*Part 1*

IT WAS IN BAPTISM DURING THE SPANISH period that the saints came marching in. The calendar listed Catholic saints for every day of the year and one had no choice but to accept the holy soul of one's birthday.

Today we may consider names like Gunigunda and Eutiquio, and their nicknames Gunday and Tikio unbearable, but if these guys were alive today, wouldn't they probably have the same thought about Chenelyn and Romnick?

Because we bear Spanish names and surnames, we are frequently mistaken by foreigners as Spanish-speaking. Actually, Blanquita and Salvador may speak not a word of Español. And their nicknames are mostly under local influence.

What works in folklore could probably apply to names. The older or more popular the story, the more versions it has. For folk tales it is "The Monkey and the Turtle" and "Mariang Alimango." For nicknames it must be Maria. These are Iyang, Angge, Mare**, Maring, Maya, Mayang, Marie, Maris, Marisa, Maruja, Marina, Marian, Mariana, Marianita, Marita. Not to forget its male version, Mario. This does not even count its aggregates—Marilou, Maribel, Maricel, Mariel, etc.—which are endless.

Another runaway favorite is, of course, José—with Ute, Joseling, Joselito, Pepe, Peping, Pepito, Pitoy, Pitong, Pete, Joe, Joseph, Josefino, Joey, Joel and Jojo as diminutives. Other front runners are Francisco (Isko, Paco, Paquito, Tiking, Tiko**, Tikoy, Kikoy, Koko, Kokoy, Frank, Franco, Frankie, Francis).

Then Juan (Juaning, Juanito, Ito, Nito, Nitoy, Juancho, Juanchito, John, Johnny, Jon-Jon) and, for girls, Teresa. Through the years, saints' names remained constant although nicknames evolved with the times.

Old nicknames were often longer than the

BERLING/ F2

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# Berling, Chayong and Ute

From page F1

KENKOY
BARANG
CHUCHAY
ROSING

names themselves. The last letter was replaced with "ing" as in Vicenting, Amparing, Gracianing and Amading. Or the additive was "ito" or "ita" as in Luisito, Elenita, Ignacito and Carmencita.

Short nicknames came about by extracting two syllables from the first name and adding an "e" to it. For instance, Tone** (To-ne**) for Antonio, Baste** for Sebastian, Tale** (Ta-le**) for Catalina and Jule** for Juliana.

Adding a "y" is another old way of producing a pet name such as Kikoy, Bindoy, Andoy, Lilay, Ninay and Kakay. Which is also how the Filipino got its nicknames Pinoy and Pinay, the mestizo Tisoy and Tisay. The Americano got to be Cano**. And doesn't the diminutive of a diminutive make Pinggoy and Chinggay, Minggoy and Linggay sound even more beloved?

Nota bene: Segunda or Segundina must have been a name reserved for a second child, almost, but not quite, preempting a name like Bea Jr.

What works in folklore could probably apply to names. The older or more popular the story, the more versions it has

GUNIGUNDA...
O, OSMUNDO!

## A sampler of old names and nicknames

Warning: The number of nicknames you can attach to the first names may reveal your age.

**A**
Abet - Alberto
Aco; Acuy - Ciriaco
Adlong - Eladio
Aging - Milagros
Ambet - Lamberto
Ambo** - Pablo; Ambrosio
Anang - Juana
Anching - Constancia; Esperanza
Andong; Andoy - Alejandro; Fernando
Angge** - Maria
Aning - Ana
Apin - Serafin
Aqui** - Aquilino
Cion; Asun - Asuncion

**B**
Babang; Bebang - Genoveva
Bado** - Badomero
Badong; Bading; Badoy; Doy - Salvador
Baling - Cristobal
Banang - Urbana
Banche**; Banching; Baste** - Sebastian
Barang - Barbara
Baret; Estong - Evaristo
Basya - Gervacia
Belay - Isabel
Beneting; Benitoy - Benito
Bening - Benita; Veronica
Berling - Virgilio
Berong - Severo; Baldomero
Berting - Libertad; Norberta; Alberto; Gualberto
Betong - Alberto
Bibing, Bebeng - Isabel
Biday - Brigida
Binay - Severina
Binyang; Inyang - Virginia
Bito** - Victorino
Bitoy - Roberto
Bosyong; Bosyang - Ambrosio; Ambrosia

**C**
Cadio - Arcadio
Cale** - Calixto
Caloy; Caling - Carlos
Candeng; Cande** - Candelaria
Carnay - Encarnacion
Care (Ca-re**) - Zacarias
Carme** - Carmen
Cayang - Macaria
Celing - Cecilia; Celia
Chabeng - Isabel
Chanang - Ponciana
Chanay - Marciana
Chayong - Rosario
Chedeng; Chiding; Chichay; Eding - Mercedes
Chuchay - Carmen
Ciano - Feliciano
Ciong - Leoncio
Chimang; Sima; Simang - Zosima; Maxima
Chino - Joaquin
Chiping; Inang - Josefa; Josefina
Chitang - Carmen
Chitong; Sitoy - Luis
Choly; Choleng; Soly - Soledad
Choy - Francisco
Ciano - Paciano; Marciano
Citang - Pacita
Cleto - Anacleto
Conchita; Concha - Concepcion
Coring; Coroy; Curing; Corito - Socorro
Cualang - Pascuala

**D**
Dadong - Diosdado
Dalong (Visayan) - Reynaldo
Diday - Lourdes
Diding; Diday - Candida
Digo - Rodrigo
Doding - Salvador
Dodong; Dodo - Conrado
Doray; Doring; Dorong; Doroy - Teodora; Teodoro
Dosyang - Teodosia

**E**
Edeng; Merced - Mercedes
Edong - Eduardo; Wilfredo
Elo - Consuelo; Marcelo
Emong - Guillermo
Enchay - Esperanza
Enchong - Lorenzo
Enciang - Florencia
Encio - Cresencio
Ejang - Aleja
Erio- Eleuterio
Esang - Teresa
Estoy; Estong; Etoy - Ernesto

**G**
Gabe** (Ga-be**)- Gabriel
Giling (Hiling) - Angela; Angelica, Angeles, Angel; Angelo
Goring; Yoying - Gloria
Goyo; Goyito; Yoyong - Gregorio
Guiling - Miguel
Gunday; Gunding - Gunigunda; Segundina
Guring; Goria - Gregoria
Gusting - Agustin

**I**
Ibyang - Sylvia
Idio** (Visayan) - Pedro
Iking - Enrique
Ilding - Ildefonso
Ilok (Visayan) - Marcelo
Ilya - Basilio; Cecilia
Inchay - Paciencia
Ino* - Benigno; Victorino
Inying - Eugenio
Isko - Francisco
Islao - Estanislao
Isyong - Dionisio; Patricio
Itchay - Felisa
Itik (Visayan); Inting; Enteng; Tenteng - Vicente
Itoy - Angel

**K**
Karias - Zacarias
Kate (Ka-te**) - Blanquita
Kenkoy; Kiko; Kikoy; Koko; Kokoy - Francisco
Kulas - Nicolas

**L**
Lagring - Lagrimas; Milagros
Laling - Eulalia
Lilay - Cirila
Loleng - Dolores
Luding; Lunding - Lourdes
Luming; Lumen - Iluminada

**M**
Madang - Magdalena
Manang - Germana
Mare (Ma-re**)- Maria
Mena - Filomena
Metring - Demetrio
Milay; Milang; Miling; Lagring - Milagros
Miling - Emilia
Mimo*; Mimoy; Gimo - Guillermo
Minggoy - Domingo
Minoy - Maximino
Momong; Momoy - Ramon
Monang - Simona; Ramona
Munding - Raymundo; Edmundo

**N**
Nanoy; Nano - Mariano; Potenciano
Nicing - Nicetas
Nitang - Juana; Juanita
Nonang - Antonia
Noring - Leonor (F); Nicanor (M)

**O**
Obil - Wilfredo
Oca; Ocai; Oking (Visayan) - Oscar
Odong - Godofredo
Omeng - Romeo
Ompong - Rodolfo
Onyong - Antonio
Orang - Leonora; Aurora
Osang - Rosa
Owel; Maning - Manuel
Oyang - Gregoria

**P**
Pacing; Paching; Pacita - Paz
Paco; Picoy; Paking; Paquito - Francisco
Paeng - Rafael
Pamboy - Pablo
Pandoy - Fernando
Paning - Estefania
Pelang - Pelagra
Pendong - Pedro
Piling - Rafael
Pining - Agripina; Josefina; Crispina
Pipay; Pepay; Pepang; Jopay - Josefa
Pitang - Agapita; Josefa
Pitong; Pitoy - José
Ponching; Ponso - Alfonso
Ponyang - Alfonsa
Poping - Prospero
Popoy - Filemon; Felipe
Poring; Porang; Poyi - Flora
Poten; Poncing - Potenciano
Puring; Purita - Pura

**Q**
Quiring - Quirico

**R**
Raming - Ramiro

**S**
Saling - Rosalina
Santo - Crisanto
Saro - Lazaro
Seang - Elisea
Senyang - Arsenia
Silio - Basilio
Sinta - Jacinta
Sisa - Narcisa
Sitong; Sitoy; Chitong - Luis
Susing - Jesus
Susing; Sanang - Jesusa

**T**
Tace** - Anastacia
Tacing - Anastacio; Constancio
Tale (Ta-le**); Taling - Catalino; Catalina
Tanke** - Tranquilino
Tanoy - Cayetano
Tato* - Renato
Tentay - Vicenta
Teroy - Antero; Sotero
Teta* - Cristeta
Tibo** - Primitivo
Tico* - Vicente
Tikay - Francisca; Escolastica
Tiking; Tikoy - Francisco
Tiling - Estrella
Tinay - Celestina; Florentina
Tiquio - Eutiquio
Toyang - Victoria
Titang; Titay - Margarita
Tuding - Virtudes
Turing - Arturo
Tuting; Toting; Titong - Augusto
Tutong - Restituto

**U**
Ubal - Cristobal
Ulang - Paula
Ulay - Paula; Eulalia
Undo - Raymundo
Upeng - Guadalupe
Uso - Generoso
Usting; Gusting - Agustin
Ute (U-te**)- José

**Y**
Yayang - Pelagia; Hilaria
Yeyeng - Indalecio
Yoyong - Gregorio; Aurelio
Yuning (Visayan) - Leonila

## Other names from the Spanish period

**A**
Adolfo
Adoracion
Agapito
Agerico
Agueda
Anastacio
Aniceto
Anselmo
Antero
Apolinaria
Apolonio
Aproniano
Aquilino
Arsenio
Atilano
Aurelio

**B**
Balbino
Basilisa
Benedicto
Bernardo
Bibiana
Bienvenido
Blandina
Blesilda
Bonifacio
Braulio
Brigida

**C**
Calixto
Camilo
Canuto
Casto
Celestina
Claro
Clemente
Consejo
Concha
Cornelio
Crispin

**D**
Damasa
Demetrio
Desiderio
Diego
Digna
Dionisia
Dioscoro
Donato

**E**
Elisea
Emerenciana
Emeterio
Esperidion

**F**
Fabian
Felicitas
Fermin
Fidela
Filemon
Filomena
Fortunato
Froilan
Fulgencio

**G**
Germana
Gertudis

**H**
Hermogenes
Hermenegilda
Hilarion
Homobono
Honoria

**I**
Ignacio
Iñigo
Inocencia
Isagani

**J**
Jeremias
Juana
Justina
Justo

**L**
Ladislao
Laurentino
Leocadia
Leonardo
Leoncio
Lucas
Luciano
Lutgarda

**M**
Macrina
Magdalena
Marcial
Mariquita
Martin
Matias
Mauro
Melania
Melchor
Melquiades
Modesta

**N**
Nemesio
Nerissa
Nicomedes

**O**
Obdulia
Oliva
Olympia
Osmundo

**P**
Paciencia
Pacifica
Panfilo
Patrocinio
Paulino
Perpetua
Petronio
Praxedes
Presentacion
Procopio
Proserfina

**R**
Remigio
Restituto
Romana
Rosauro

**S**
Salome
Salustiano
Samuel
Santiago
Saturnina
Senen
Serafin
Sergia
Silveria
Silvestre
Silvino
Simeon
Simplicia
Sisenando
Sixta
Sofronio

**T**
Tarcila
Telesforo
Teofisto
Tiburcio
Toribia
Troadio

**U**
Ulpiano
Umberto
Urbana
Ursula

**V**
Valeriana
Valentin
Venancio
Visitacion

**W**
Wenceslao
Wigberto
Wilfrido
Wilhelmina

MY NAME IS BALBINO TELESFORO HERMOGENES...

Saturnina
Toribia
Saturnina
Toribia

The religious names that survived the 1898 revolution were the different titles of the Blessed Virgin (*Nuestra Señora de…*)—Remedios, Dolores, Carmen, Soledad, Pilar, Lourdes, Mercedes, Regina, Concordia, Paz, Purisima, Rosa, Mistica, Rosario, Guadalupe, Milagros, Socorro, Consolacion, Salvacion, Asuncion. Those that had to do with the Virgin Birth were Anunciacion, Imaculada, Natividad and Belen.

Appellations associated with God himself were Jesus, Encarnacion, Emmanuel, Resurreccion, Salvador and Diosdado. One woman named Circumcision was recorded in the '50s. Presentacion (Presentation in the Temple) was a preferred first name.

The Evangelists—Mateo, Marcos, Lucas and Juan are as popular as ever today in their Western forms—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. No less beloved are the virtues—*Virtudes*—Fe, Esperanza, Caridad, Modesta, Inocencia, Pura. For males—Fidel, Justo, Constante, Generoso.

Salutary states of being were also hailed—as in Iluminada, Bella, Salud, Felicidad, Alegria, Perpetua, Consolacion, Consuelo, Pacifica. Also in Prospero, Tranquilino, Benedicto and Patricio. The rest of the religious names belong to saints and martyrs, some truly obscure. More than 50 percent of these *Panahon ni Limahong* names survived World War II.

*My bestseller, "The Last Full Moon," is available at Fully Booked, PowerBooks Greenbelt 4, Megamall and Alabang; National Book Store Shangri-La, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1 and Alabang, Metropolitan Museum, and Datelines in Cubao.*

---

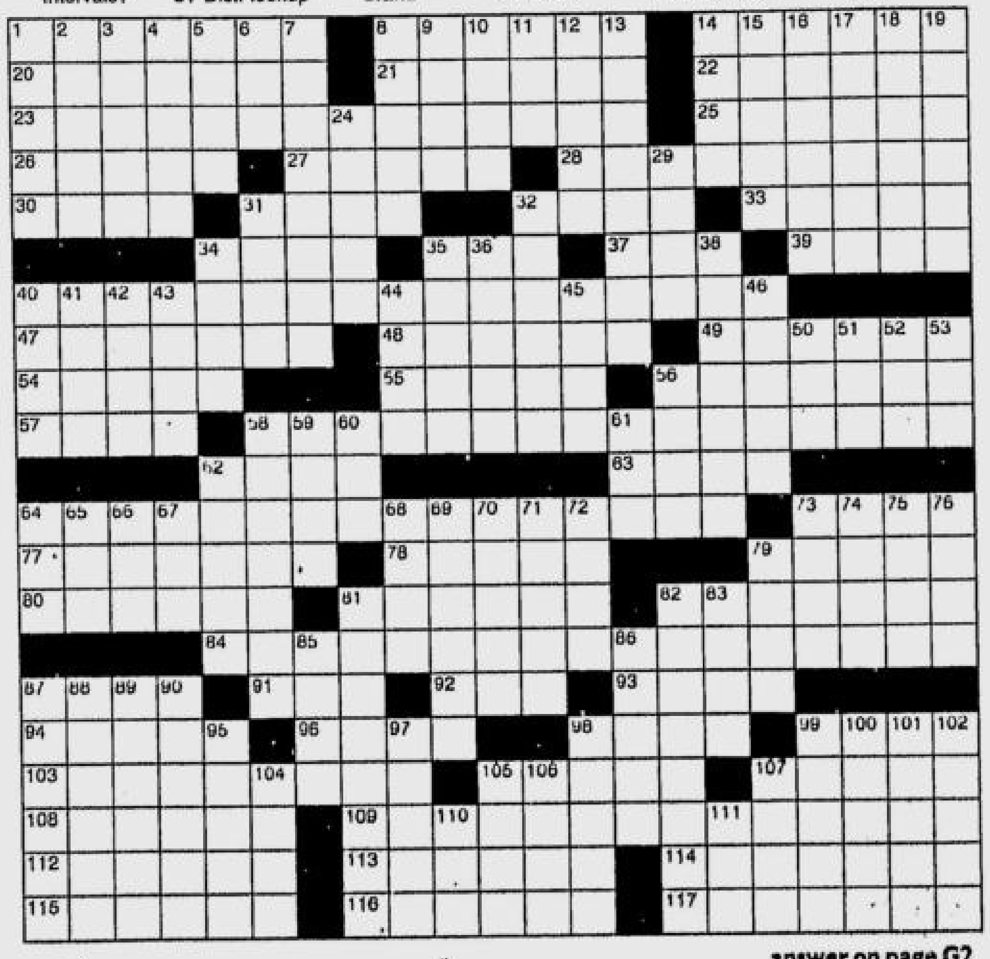
## SUNDAY CROSSWORD

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

### IRISH ROES

ACROSS
1 White metallic element
8 Will Smith's "Men in Black" role
14 Pub-crawler
20 Shorten
21 Santa's guffaw
22 Antarctica's — penguin
23 Tricks played in North Carolina?
25 "Pest" in Beverly Cleary titles
26 Snookums
27 Fathered
28 Buck's pouting faces?
30 Greek Cupid
31 The point — return
32 Absorbed
33 Walk like a peacock
34 Hit hard
35 Lanka lead-in
37 Syllable of laughter
39 See in the distance
40 Whimpers in faster intervals?
47 Removes cargo from
48 Saunters
49 Excessive pride
54 Crackbrain
55 Pianist Rubinstein
56 City whose "walls came tumblin' down"
57 Baby's "piggies"
58 Doesn't decimate a city?
62 On — with (similar to)
63 City in Yemen
64 Uses mariners' home remedies?
73 Chronicle
77 Low rating, perhaps
78 Pulls along
79 Grieve
80 Spot's plaything
81 Chaos
82 Like teapots
84 Considers it a great honor to study the mind?
87 Lid fastener
91 Dict. lookup
92 Scottish denial
93 Amiens assents
94 Met show
96 Clump of hair
98 Matador charger
99 Small eatery
103 Laws governing group ethics?
105 Amusingly odd
107 Iraqi port
108 Prophet in Kings
109 Rejects the poet who wrote "Here and Now"?
112 Tickled pink
113 Humpless ruminants
114 Understand
115 Two-dot punctuation marks
116 Banana oils, for example
117 Men of Malaga

DOWN
1 Secret stash
2 Despise
3 Clog-clearing brand
4 Bogs down
5 As a loafer would
6 "La Cage aux Folles" co-star Tognazzi
7 Many New Yorkers, baseball-wise
8 "Billy, Don't Be —" (1974 hit)
9 Writer Vidal
10 Barak of Israel
11 Negative replies
12 Silents actress Bara
13 Ancient Jewish historian
14 Roseanne's maiden name
15 Don of "Get Smart"
16 Distant
17 Baking aisle choices
18 Form a queue
19 Like fresh bread
24 Hues
29 And the like: Abbr.
31 Had debts
32 Revolt
34 Card game for three
35 Nap noise
36 Takes ten
38 Merrymaker
40 Cry uncle
41 Annul
42 "Nasty" Nastase
43 Talks fondly
44 Sharif of the screen
45 Fire fan
46 It's a wrap
50 Insect egg
51 Here, to Henri
52 E'en if
53 Over there
56 Karate kin
58 Spread outward
59 Duo
60 Noah's boat
61 Comrade
62 Furrier John Jacob —
64 Food fish
65 Numero —
66 Rule, for short
67 NYC clock setting
68 River in Germany
69 Gung-ho
70 Spicy sauce
71 Open-mouthed
72 Beliefs
73 Inner self
74 Coupe, e.g.
75 Actor Kinnear
76 Raggedy Ann's friend
79 Cattle calls
81 Confuse
82 Some oarsmen
83 Skier Mahre
85 Kill, as a bill
86 "— be sorry!"
87 Class with cooking and sewing
88 God of light
89 Soap opera, for example
90 Fast tempo
95 Very pale
97 Reads Braille, e.g.
98 "My — Daughter" (2003 comedy)
99 Monte —
100 Out of bed
101 Turned to ice
102 Roof overhangs
104 Heels
105 Thin coin
106 Hindmost
107 Coffee bit
110 Rebellious slave Turner
111 Churchill's sign



answer on page G2

IN MAGAZINE'S maiden issue

# Gateway to mall pleasures

**By Scott James H. Roxas**
*Trainee*

GATEWAY INTRODUCES IN MAGAZINE, A virtual map to good food and shopping finds in QC's premiere mall.

The magazine was launched with good food, guests from the wellness and shopping industries, and a magician at the Gateway Pavilion at the Araneta Center.

Jorge Araneta, chair of Araneta Group of Companies was there to welcome the guests. Binibining Pilipinas 2006 winners and Century Tuna Super Bod winner Jon Mullally also graced the event. The magazine's publisher, Vernon Go, and Binibining Pilipinas-Universe Lia Andrea Ramos did the hosting job for the night.

In Magazine aims to promote a hip and healthy urban lifestyle for Gateway's patrons with pages highlighting products and services that only the mall can offer. For its maiden issue, Katrina Tantoco Lobregat is the cover girl, clad in a hot swimwear. Inside are features on Gateway's latest offerings in food and fashion, the town's current fitness craze Bikram Yoga, WWE's mad man Mick Foley and more.

Photographers Tom Epperson, Wawi Navarroza and Xander Angeles provide the pictures, while Palanca awardee Pearlsha Abubakar leads the editorial team.

In magazine will be released quarterly to Araneta Center's patrons for free.

**BINIBINING** Pilipinas-Universe Lia Andrea Ramos and Binibining Pilipinas International Denille Lou Valmonte with runner-up beauties add glamour to the launch.

# Flores de Maria fest

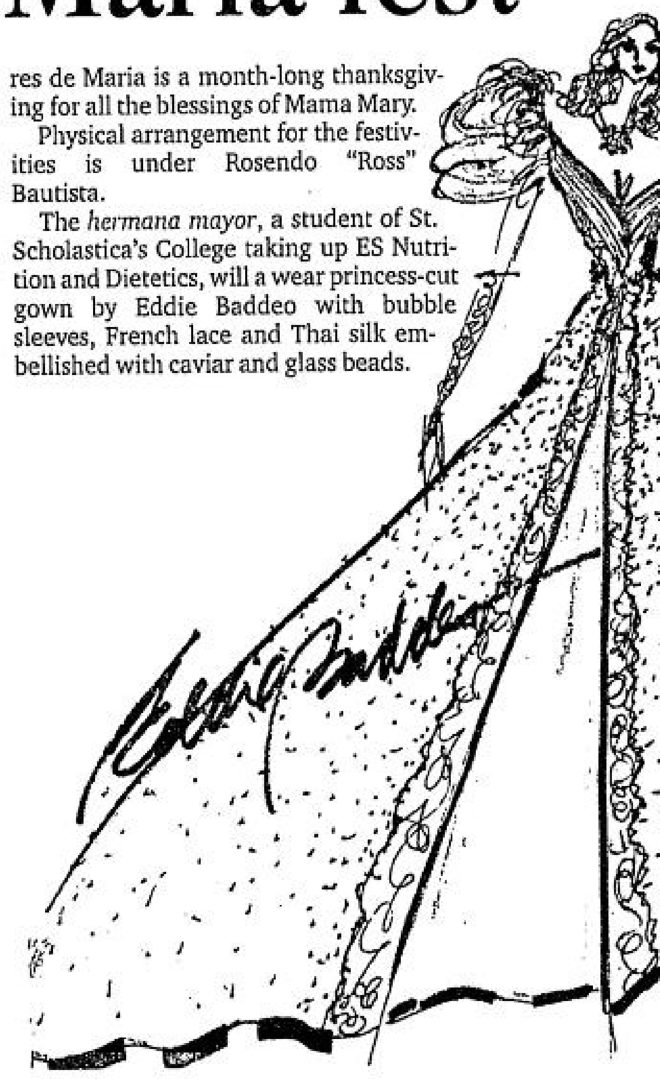
MA. THERESA ALMENDRALA, daughter of engineer and Ms Bernard Almendrala, is this year's *hermana mayor* of Flores de Maria on May 28, in San Pedro Apostol Parish in Laguna. Lawyer José Alvarez Jr. is the *hermano mayor*.

Since 1934, the annual celebration of Flores de Maria is a month-long thanksgiving for all the blessings of Mama Mary.

Physical arrangement for the festivities is under Rosendo "Ross" Bautista.

The *hermana mayor*, a student of St. Scholastica's College taking up ES Nutrition and Dietetics, will a wear princess-cut gown by Eddie Baddeo with bubble sleeves, French lace and Thai silk embellished with caviar and glass beads.

MA. THERESA
Almendrala



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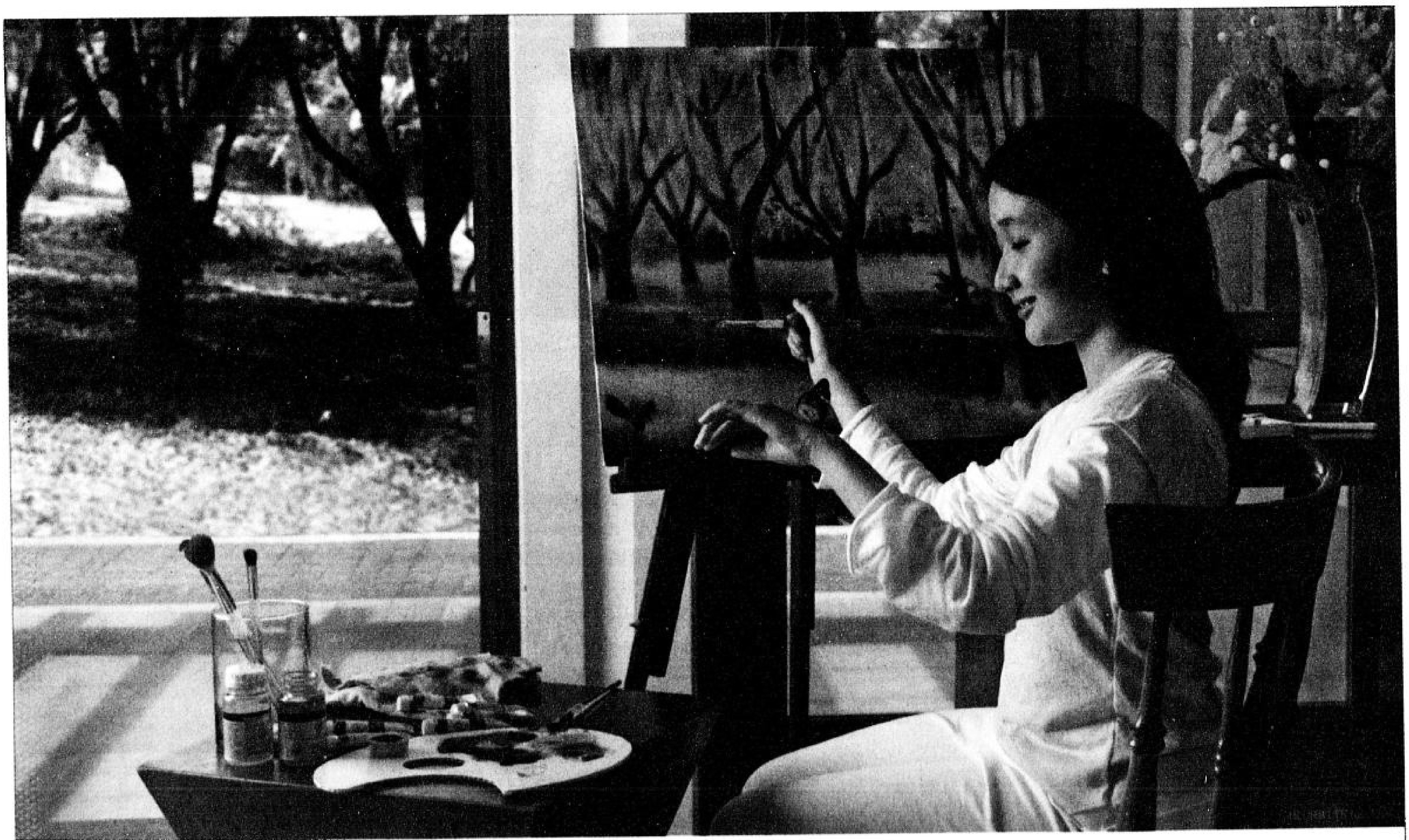

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# The unfinished, the found and the overlooked are 'Rachified'

**DYED** bright red, palm fronds look like exotic blooms.

The show shines the spotlight on indigenous Filipino pieces—many refreshingly new, others too common that they are overlooked and some simply ignored because people do not know what to do with them

**STYLIST** Rachy Cuna and Hotel InterContinental manager Christian Pirodon

**A TALL** silver tin vase shows off to best advantage large colorful blooms made of capiz in "Pamumulaklak."

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

EVEN PEOPLE NOT EXACTLY enamored with artificial flowers will likely be charmed by Rachy Cuna's installations at the lobby of the InterContinental Manila ongoing until the end of the month.

"Rachified: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" is one of the events organized in connection with the observance of the Filipino Heritage Month, organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc. It is also a celebration of the traditional May flower festival.

The show shines the spotlight on indigenous Filipino pieces, many refreshingly new, others too common that they are overlooked, and some simply ignored because people do not know what to do with them.

But in Cuna's creative hands, the mixing and matching, harmony and contrast of disparate pieces resulted in pieces that are colorful, dramatic, unusual, whimsical but always pleasing to the eye.

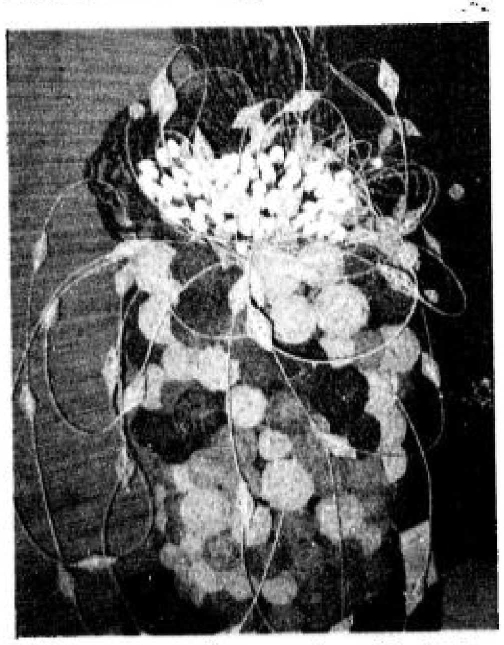
Colored capiz "blooms" shimmer; clumps of golden rice stalks glitter; and tiny, pearly white shells dazzle like fragile *sampaguita* buds.

Cuna put together an eclectic collection that allows everything to be seen in a new light—unfinished *anahaw* fans; dried leaves, grasses and twigs; rattan balls; palm fronds; swaths of *sinamay* and strips of abaca; commonplace baskets and planters.

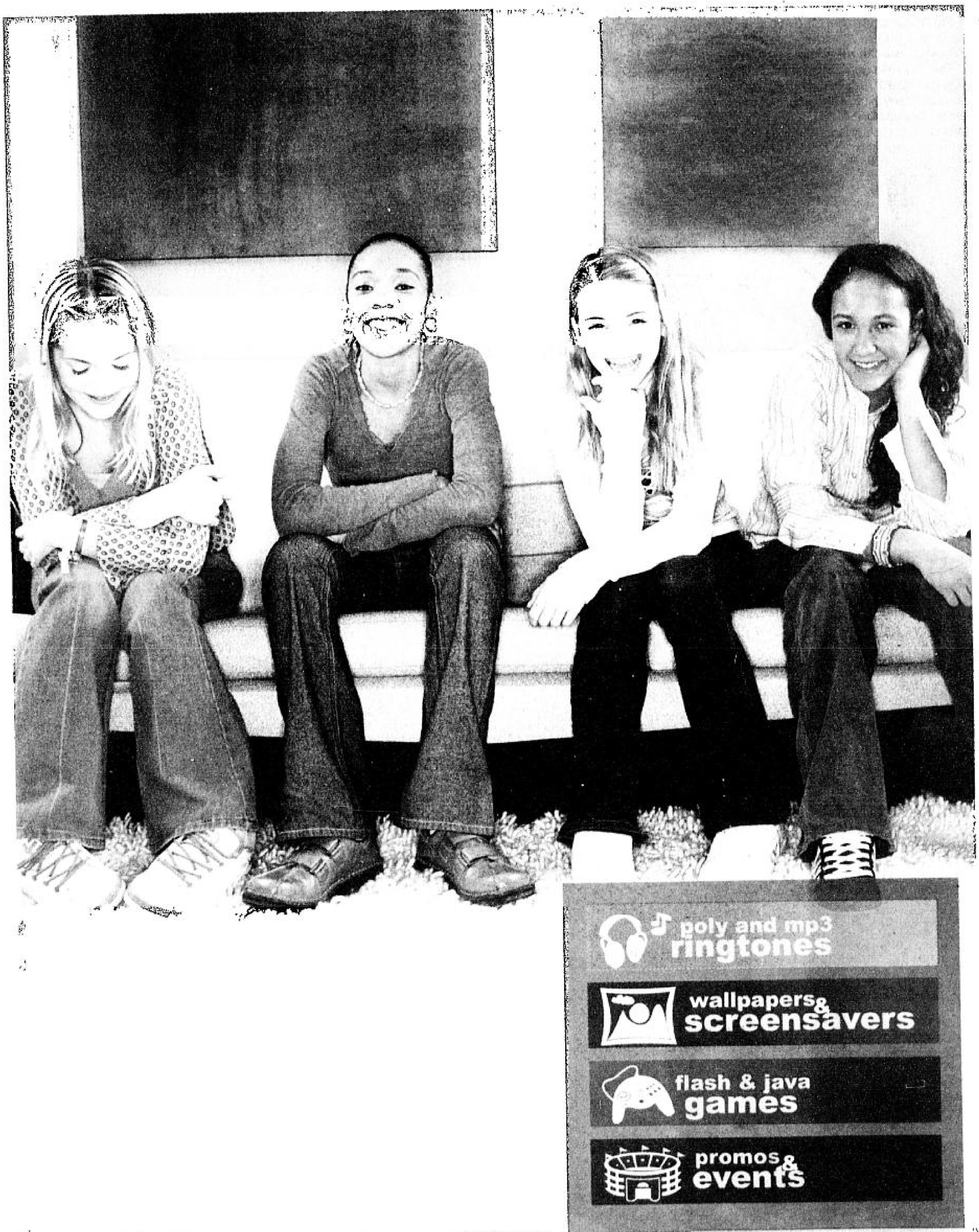
As is his wont, Cuna uses the show to introduce his audience to the many possibilities, the many creative uses of things "native" to the Philippines' 7,100 islands.

While "Rachified" is primarily intended to showcase Cuna's artistry and versatility, it is also an occasion for audiences to see just how much creative and innovative work is being done by Filipino craftspeople and artisans. Cuna borrowed from friends, trend-setters in Filipino handicraft design and workmanship and successful exporters, some of the main pieces, containers and accents, making the show a mini-display of Philippine arts and crafts.

**"PANG-ALAY"** pays tribute to bountiful harvest with its baskets, bunches of palay stalks and *bulol* or rice god.



**BALLS** made of indigenous vines, dried twigs and leaves create a different whole in "Buklod."



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# Sunday LIFESTYLE

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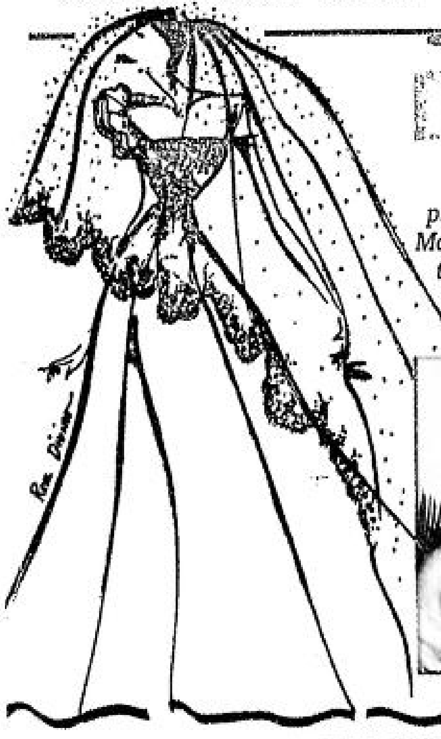
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



## *Milestones*

*We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

### CUERDO SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Captain **Milo Cuerdo** (master mariner) and **Ma. Luisa Cuerdo** celebrated recently their 25th anniversary at Santuario de San Antonio in Makati. Reception followed at Artists Pavilion, Makati Park and Garden, Makati City. The bridal gown made by Rem Divino was of natural white color shantung, with bias-cut tail at the back, encrusted with Chantilly lace with beadwork at the bodice.

### PINEDA-NERI

**Ed Arellano Pineda**, son of Mr. and Ms **Dominador Pineda**, will wed **Christine May Felipe Neri**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Rolando Neri**, at 4:30 p.m., May 27, at St. Jerome Emiliani Parish Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Reception will follow at Circle Island Resort, Daang Hari, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite.

### LAVAPIE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**Cristino Lavapie** and **Paz Sarto** will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on April 25, with rites at Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Elena, Marikina. Reception will be at Kapitan Moy, Marikina. **Alec Santos** of Events Plus is wedding coordinator. The bride will wear a stylized ecru terno embellished with gold beadwork and Swarovski crystals by **Arnel Dulay**.

### FACUNLA-HOLGADO

A1C **Glenn Facunla**, son of retired PAF Lt. **Celso Sr.** and **Vicencia (née Badang)** Facunla, will marry AW2C **Cristina Holgado**, daughter of PAF MSg. **Leoncio** and the former **Perlita Valdez**, at 10 a.m., June 3, at St. Remedios Chapel 1, Air Force City, Clark Air Base, Pampanga. Reception follows at the Officers Club, Clark Air Base, Pampanga.

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# A wedding trimmed in silver

THE EYE-CATCHING daughters of the couple: (top to bottom) pretty as a picture Rica, articulate Risa and law student Rita

By Maurice Arcache

WELL-RESPECTED sugar baron and business magnate **Rito Carlos "Judgee" Lopez Peña** and wife, Iloilo socialite and No. 1 hostess **Sarah Opulencia-P.**, renewed their vow to stay together in sickness and in health, in richer and poorer till death do they part, in a dazzling ceremony marking their silver wedding anniversary at the grandioso San Agustin in Jaro.

Msgr. **Jomarie Delgado**, who married them 25 years ago in Hacienda Antolanga in Isabela Negros Occidental, officiated with Fr. **Tranquilino Nacional** and Fr. **Edwin Castillo.**

Just like when they wed 25 years ago, there was also a heavy downpour during the renewal of their vows. The couple took it "as a blessing from God," which they have so much of today, *palanggas*.

Judgee and Sarah P.'s love affair started when they met as high-school students at Isabela, Negros Occidental, their hometown.

"It was love at first sight. I couldn't wait to let her know how I felt," the excited groom told *moi*.

The radiant bride was stunning as she walked down the aisle in a gorgeous Filipiniana gown by the one-of-a-kind **Patis Tesoro**, no less, who also created the barong Tagalog of the groom and the elegant gowns of their adorable daughters—brilliant **Carla Fernandina**, maid of honor who is set to enter law school at Ateneo de Manila University; **Risa Maria Lourdes**, bridesmaid who will begin her Legal Management studies at Ateneo; and pretty 10-year-young **Rica Marie Isabel**, flower girl.

The three daughters read and led the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Prayers of the Faithful, respectively.

As when they wed 25 years ago, there was also a downpour during the Peñas' renewal of vows, which they considered a blessing

SEALED with a kiss are 25 years of togetherness. Judgee Lopez-Peña and Sarah Opulencia-Peña

## Hotshot sponsors

*Naturellement*, tons of Southern island hotshots and Cosmo-*Manille*'s adorable namedroppables jetted to Iloilo to witness this renewal of vows. Hot principal sponsors were headed by old-wealth Southern gentleman **Albertito Lopez** and wife, the lady who placed Guimaras on the map, two-term governor of that island, eye-catching **Emily Relucio Lopez**; dynamic Sen. **Manuel B. Villar** and his equally dynamic wife, Rep. **Cynthia Aguilar**; Rep. **Ignacio Arroyo** and **Virginia Segovia**; Gov. **Niel** and **Myrna Tupas**; Gen. **Reynaldo Berroya** and DOST regional director **Zinnia Teruel**; **Rafael Abello** and **Petronila Peña vda. de Garcia**; renowned balladeer **José Marie Chan** and **Corazon P. Kabayao**; BPI's hot president, a close pal of the groom, **Aurelio Montinola III**, who rushed to the church having just traveled from Australia via *Manille*, and partner Dr. **Pacita Gonzalez**; Maurice Arcache (as in *moi*) with adorable Dr. **Marie Casenas**; civic-oriented couple lawyer **José Claro "Tito" Tesoro** and wife, world-class couturier, Maria Beatriz "Patis" Pamintuan T.; Mayor **Oscar Montilla** and **Linda Hobitzel**; **Victor Faculdad** and **Imelda Florete**; lawyer **José Mari Treñas** and working heiress **Marivic Madrigal Vasquez**, looking fabulous in a stunning Patis Tesoro terno; **Enrique Montilla** and Sea Winds Boracay Resort beauty **Ruth Tirol Jarantilla**; **Bonifacio Peña** and BIR regional director **Sonia Flores**; Dr. **Siemon F. Cataluna** and **Marjorie Libo-on**; Dr. **Manuel de Asis** and **Salvacion Plotena**; **Rodrigo Palomo** and **Florencia de la Cruz**; brilliant gentleman of all seasons Col. **Benjamin Salvador Plotena**; **Rodrigo Palomo** and **Juliet Diamante**; and super nice **Ross Gorriceta** and **Elena Javellana.**

MAURICE Arcache (as in *moi*), in a barong by Silk Cocoon, with the adorable Dr. Marie Casena

NONOY Montilla and Linda Hoblitzel, mother of Cynthia Patag and a wedding sponsor 25 years ago

LOI Montilla, Ding Puentevella, Susie Facultad and the groom's close pal, BPI president Gigi Montinola

DR. KRISTIN Treñas, Jeffrey Campos and columnist Marichel Magalona

WILLIAM and Lily O'Boyle

## Reception

*Après* the ceremony, 300 of Iloilo and Cosmo Manille's hip, young, modern breed of social butterflies, sugar barons and baronesses, as well as the young at heart and chosen invitees dashed to the palatial Peña Mansion at the chic upscale Ledesco Village.

Set up at the pool side of the sprawling garden was a sumptuous buffet of all-time favorites. A salad bar, roast beef station and a calorific dessert counter were laid out by that culinary wiz, **Wilson Esparancilla**, for the chi-chi guests, dressed in their Filipiniana best, some of them jetting in from abroad and different parts of the Philippines, *palanggas*.

The fun part was the brief program that included a video presentation chronicling the *affaire de coeur* of the silver couple, a special production of the couples pals, plus the roasting and toasting from their dearest close pals and *famille* members.

It was then followed by an awesome all-night of rocking the dance floor, table hopping and hobnobbing with the invitees. Not even the rains could stop the Peña *famille*, their relatives and pals, from having a great time during this celebration of love, happiness and togetherness.

Well, after all dahlings, the Peñas are famous for holding some of the best parties in town! Now you know why they are two of the personalities Tatler magazine chose for its coming issue, *palanggas*, as "people you should know in Iloilo."

Hey, let's raise our glasses of bubbly as they aim for the gorgeous Ruby. Cheers, *palanggas*!

MARIVIC Madrigal Vasquez in a Patis Tesoro terno

GROOM'S mother Doña Yolanda "Bobbie" Lopez Peña, daughter of former VP Fernando Lopez

CEDRICK Loring and mother Milly Loring.

# Shame and scandal in the neighborhood

EMILY'S POST

*Emily A. Marcelo*

Somebody said my dad had a very young boy in his house

DEAR EMILY,

My mom and dad are both in their late '60s. But they have been living separately for about eight to 10 years now.

Everything started when my mom suspected my dad of being gay and having an affair with a man.

I'm the eldest in a brood of seven. We were told about this problem by my mom from the onset. But all of us simply chose not to discuss this with my father. We gave him the benefit of the doubt.

Years passed and my mother kind of accepted the situation. And, through the years, my mom has more or less forgiven my dad.

But problems are beginning to crop up again. And they are worse this time.

Somebody called up my mother to tell her that my dad was keeping a very young boy in his house. The boy, according to my dad's neighbor, often showed up at night and left early the next day.

And I'm pretty sure this news is now spreading like wildfire in my dad's place.

Now I'd like to talk to my dad about this but don't know how to go about it. I want to tell my dad about these rumors and for him to commit his indiscretion someplace else, not in our neighborhood.

I love him and I respect him so much despite what he's been doing lately. I even told my mom to simply accept the situation no matter how hard and painful it is and to accept my dad for what he really is.

But my mom is furious. She plans to tell every member of our family about my dad's secret life to get even. What can I do?

DENN

At 60, it's quite late in the day to teach an old dog like your dad new tricks. His lifestyle has been tolerated for so long by his wife and you kids.

You've all given him the benefit of the doubt for so long and this has reinforced his devil-may-care attitude till now.

I don't think a few wagging tongues in the neighborhood will greatly affect him. Having grown accustomed to the kind of life he has, what is there to be squeamish about with this young lover?

But how young is young? If his paramours are below the legal age of consent, which I believe (to be on the safe side) is 21, then that is definitely a no-no! Truly-ly!

Someone should call the police and throw him in the slammer. But if it is between consenting adults...

Some "bible-quoting guardians" of society can be very mean sometimes. They condemn what they cannot fully understand or refuse to accept.

Their little minds proclaim themselves arbiters of morals and they brandish labels that hurt and insult.

If you and your siblings are 100-percent sure that your father is guilty of pedophilia, then go tell him to his face how absolutely immoral and decadent he is! But if it's just the neighbor's gossip that you're relying on, your father deserves to be heard at least.

We're not here to pass judgment on your father. He is what he is and it's too late in the day to analyze this or that. What can your mother do to destroy him further?

In your father's mind, being the person he already believes is an "anomaly" in society, is "punishment" enough. He is 61.

In a little while, the tape worms in his body will start filling up the forms to secure him a real estate in Loyola. Isn't life too short to be tolerating neighbors peeping through windows or galloping on high horses about morals and virtues?

Seek out the truth and the truth shall give you strength... Sounds familiar?

*(E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30pm Monday-Friday from on dwBR 104.3 FM.)*

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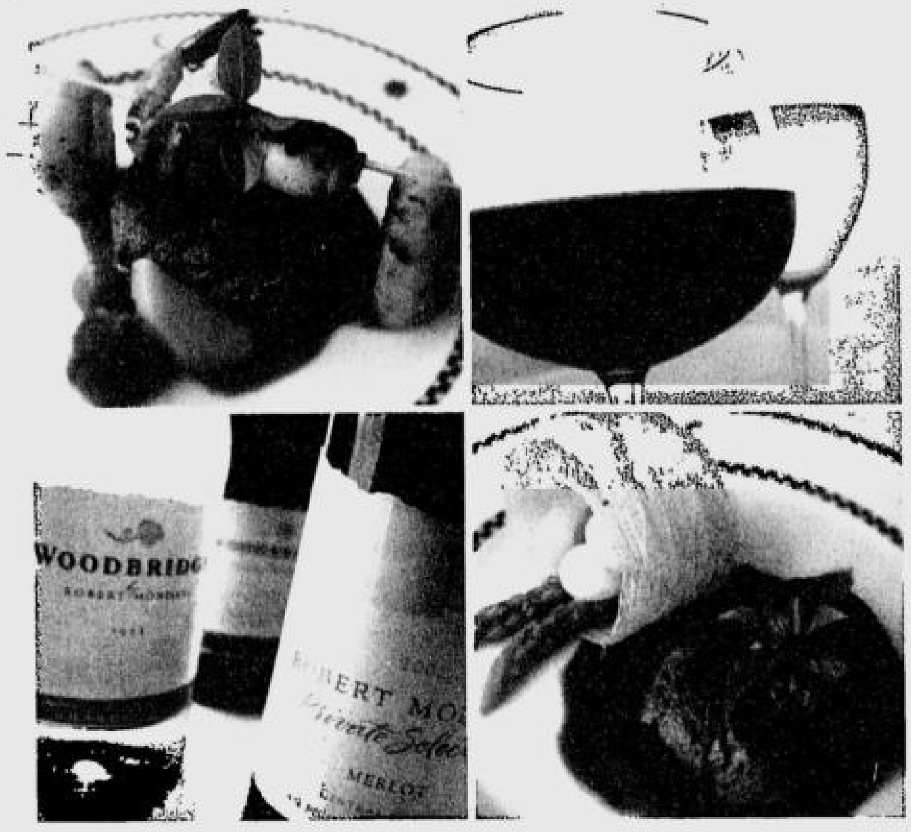

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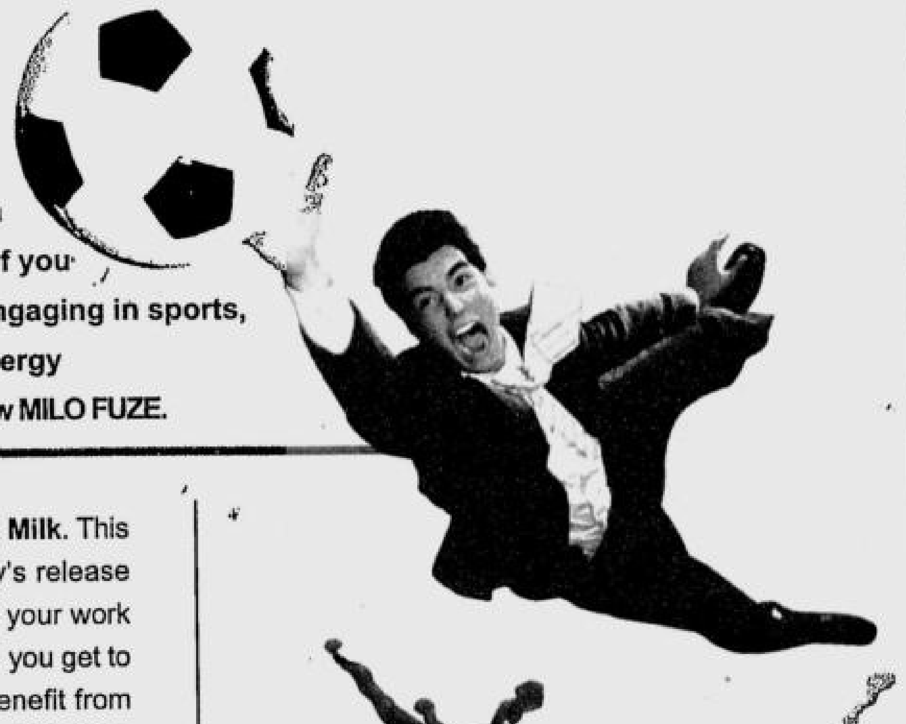

Okay. So you're too busy climbing the corporate ladder to have time and energy for fun and other activities outside work. And the only sport you're engaged in is the rat race. If you go on like this, you'll soon feel burned-out and frustrated. You've got to de-stress by engaging in sports, having a hobby, or simply hanging out with friends. Don't worry about finding spare energy for these. Because now, you can manage your body's energy supply with the help of new **MILO FUZE**.

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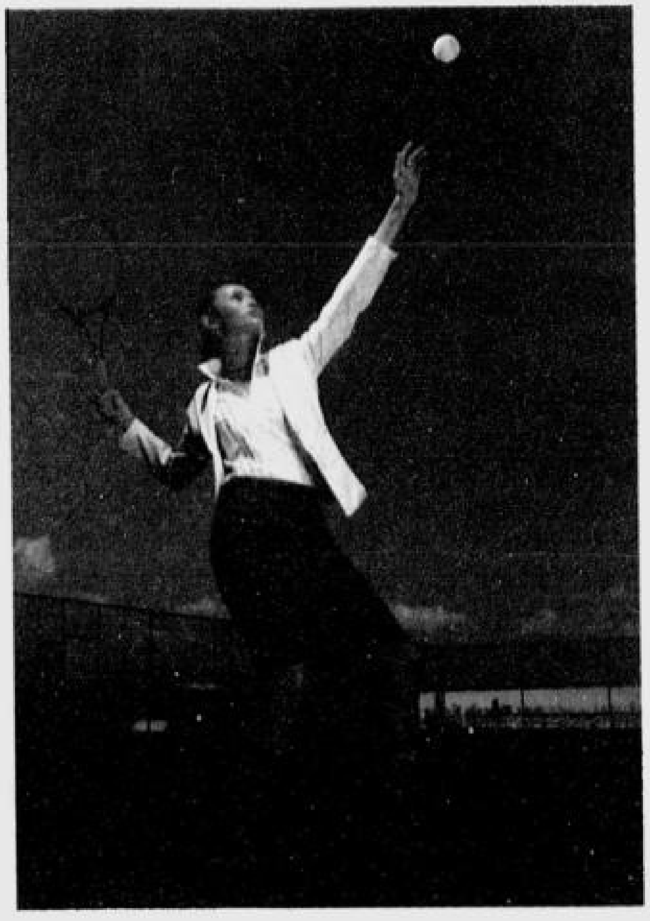

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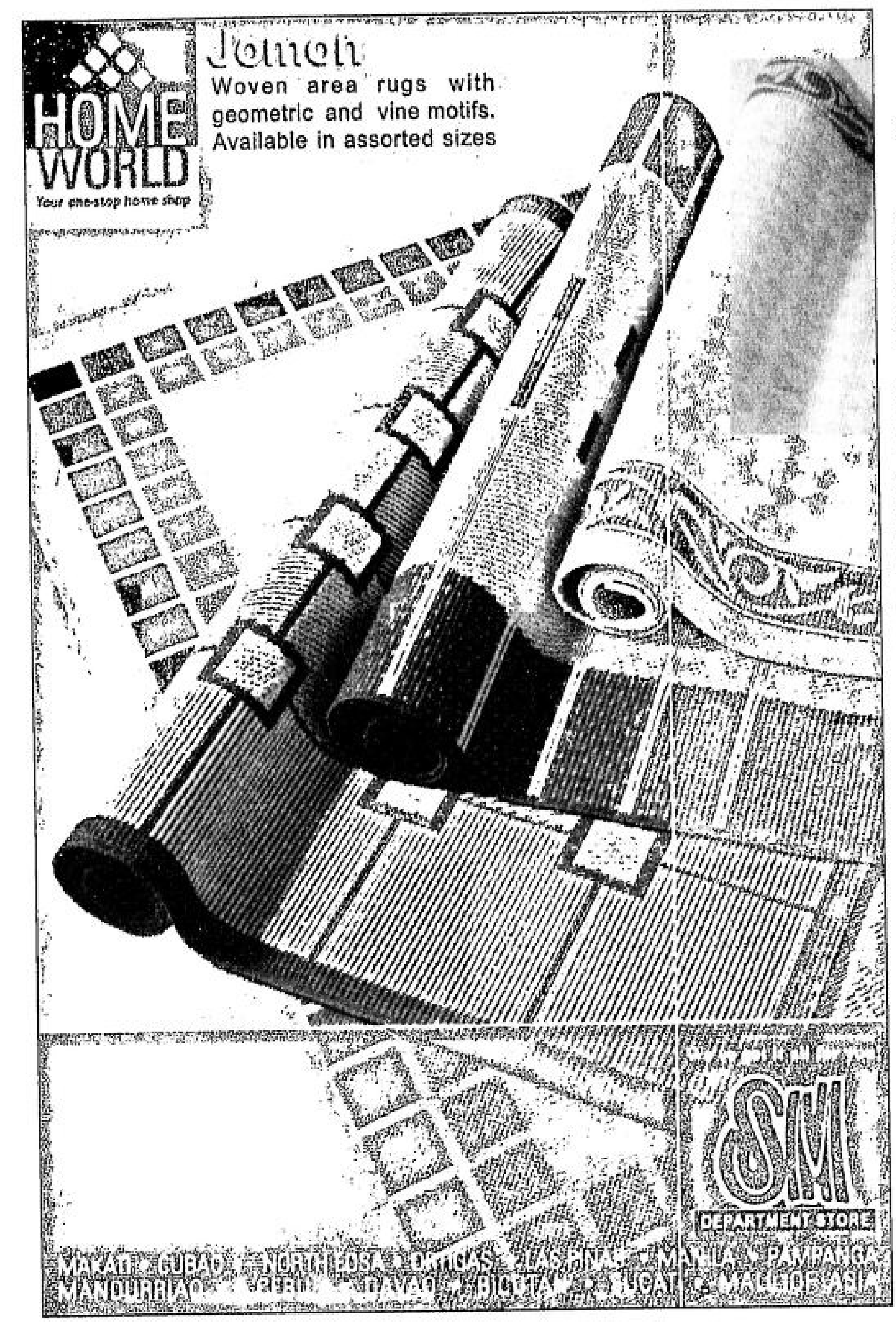
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# Feast of St. Ferdinand III of Castille

PURELY PERSONAL

*Josephine Darang*

> A man of great faith and devotion, especially to the Virgin Mary, the saint founded and funded hospitals, bishoprics, monasteries, and churches

THE PEOPLE OF Ilagan, Isabela begin today the nine-day novena of Masses honoring their patron saint, Ferdinand III of Castille, whose feast day falls on May 31.

Ilagan Bishop Sergio Utleg will officiate in the concelebrated Mass at 9 a.m. Fr. Kelly Lora is the parish priest.

The Dominican friars led by Fr. Pedro Jimenez set up their mission in 1678 in this place and named it "San Fernando de Ilagan."

Earlier, in 1597, Fr. Antonio de Soria built a church in the pueblo of Nallalaungan in the vicinity of Hacienda Sta. Isabel.

The church was reportedly beautiful but fell into disrepair through the years. St. Ferdinand de Castille Church is now being renovated to restore it to its former glory.

Who was St. Ferdinand III of Castille?

St. Ferdinand was the son of Alfonso IX, king of Leon, and Berengaria, daughter of King Alfonso of Castille. Ferdinand became king of Castille in 1217 at age 18, then king of Leon and also of Palencia, Valladolid, and Burgos in 1230. He married Princess Beatrice, daughter of Philip of Swabia, king of Germany. The couple had seven sons and three daughters.

Following the death of Beatrice, he married Joan of Ponthiers and had two more sons and a daughter.

A man of great faith and devotion, especially to our Lady, Ferdinand founded and funded hospitals, bishoprics, monasteries, and churches. An excellent administrator and just ruler, he always strove to use his power to better his people and his nation.

## Monks

Since Fr. Archie Cortez founded the Servants of the Risen Christ Monastic Community in 1998, the number of men joining the order increased tremendously. These are mostly professionals answering the call of the Lord.

That same year Pope John Paul II approved the order on the recommendation of Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinenze.

On May 15, in the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church in Ramos, Tarlac, two more young men made their religious vows and received their monastic names.

Don Brian D. Malnegro is from Hipusngo, Baybay, Leyte while Ramos V. de la Cruz is from the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

According to Thomas Merton a Trappist monk, "a monk is a man who has given up everything. He is one who abandoned desire in order to achieve the highest fulfillment of all desires. He has renounced liberty in order to become free. He goes to war because he has found a kind of war that is peace."

## Vows

Sor Mary Pauline, a Handmaid of the Risen Christ, pronounced her perpetual vows before her brother, Fr. Archie Cortez, prior of the order, at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in San Fernando, Pampanga.

She was born to Adoracion and Salvador Cortez when brother Fr. Archie was 8 years old. Named Raquel, she finished management at the Philippine School of Business Administration. After working for six years, she got the call to serve the Lord.

The Handmaids of the Risen Christ have their formation house behind the residence of Teresita Nepomuceno Wilkerson whom everybody refers to as the "Mother General of the order.

"Mama Tess" is 77 and still drives a car well. A strong independent woman, Mama Tess had cancer twice and was healed twice. She thought she probably had a mission.

This was revealed to her when the nuns needed a bigger place. After building the formation house in her property, she also built a dormitory for the monks in the hills of San Jose, Tarlac where the Servants of the Risen Christ have a monastery.

I am grateful to Domingo "Kuya D" Tolentino, who told me all this and introduced me to Fr. Archie Cortez, parish priest of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church in Ramos, Tarlac.

Kuya D prayed to St. Therese that he would meet me someday. He finally did when I sat down at his table during the fiesta lunch of the Bambino de Aracoeli in Naic, Cavite. He and his boss, Pacita Phillips, were guests. Two weeks after that, Kuya D brought me to Ramos, Tarlac to meet Fr. Archie.

## 'Catholic Soul'

Edgardo C. de Vera has written the book "Catholic Soul," featuring essays in Catholic apologetics. Each essay gives you a knowledge of your faith through reading and reflection for two minutes a week for one year.

Fr. James Reuter, SJ, says in the foreword: "St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the 'Summer Theologica' in Latin. If you do not read Latin, this little book 'Catholic Soul' is the next best thing." The book is available at Totus Tuus bookstore (tel. 7234326) and National Bookstore nationwide.

## Cofradia

The Cofradia de Santa Filomerna composed of young people chosen by Fr. Jojo Zerrudo is in charge of preparations for the special Mass to honor the holy relics of the saint at 6 p.m., May 24, at the Holy Redeemer Church in Masambong, QC.

The group consists of Alexander Cunanan, Shiela de la Cuesta, Marlon Bresna, Marc Oliver Viaje, Juan Paolo Janolino, John Art Velez, Constantino Millanes, Jenny Posadas and Vincent Teodosio.

Apologies to Fr. Renato Frias who we failed to mention in our Fatima parish column. Fr. Frias was parish priest from 1983-1986.

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# *Learn to face your fear and pain*

BRAHMA KUMARI Denise Lawrence will share her life experiences and offer expert advice on how best to handle fear in public programs titled "Face Off! (Shaking hands with fear, anger and pain)."

Catch her at 6:30 p.m., May 23, at the St. Cecilia Hall, St. Scholastica's College, in Manila.

"Face Off!" is a Brahma Kumaris program offered free as a service to the community. Call 8907960 (Makati), 9229231 (QC) and 5212015 (Manila).

# Seaside Italian dining

ITALIANNI'S RESTAURANT opens its newest branch May 21, at 2/F, Entertainment section, SM-Mall of Asia, Bay Boulevard, Pasay City.

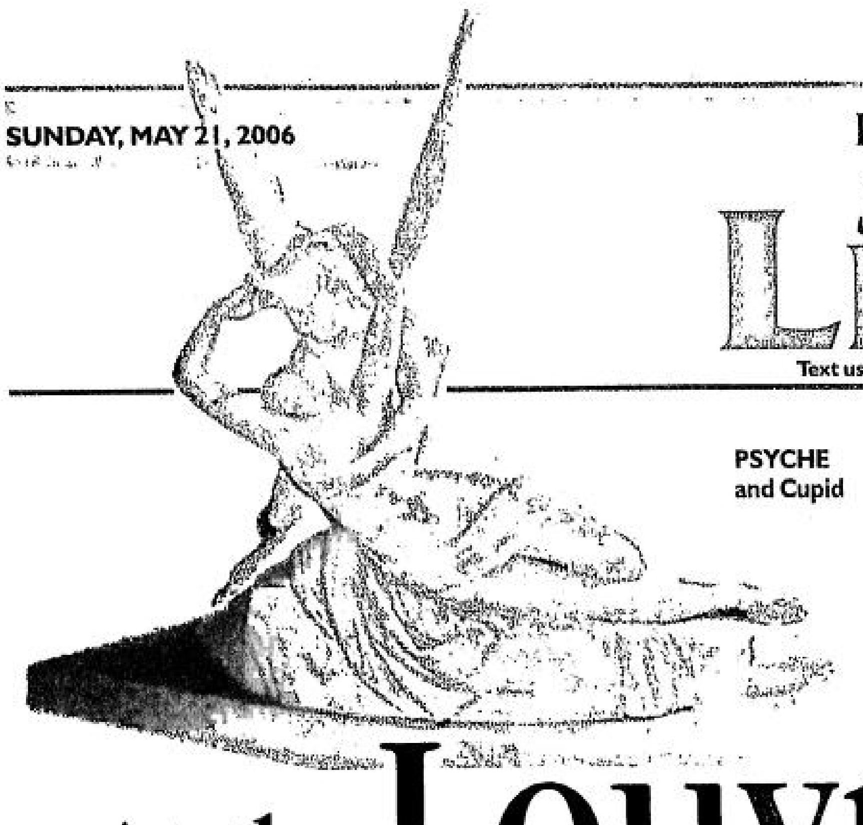
The new branch is designed to evoke scenes of Naples and Portofino, two of Italy's seaside attractions. It has a seating capacity of 175.

The new branch features a terrace-deck area where guests can enjoy their food al fresco.

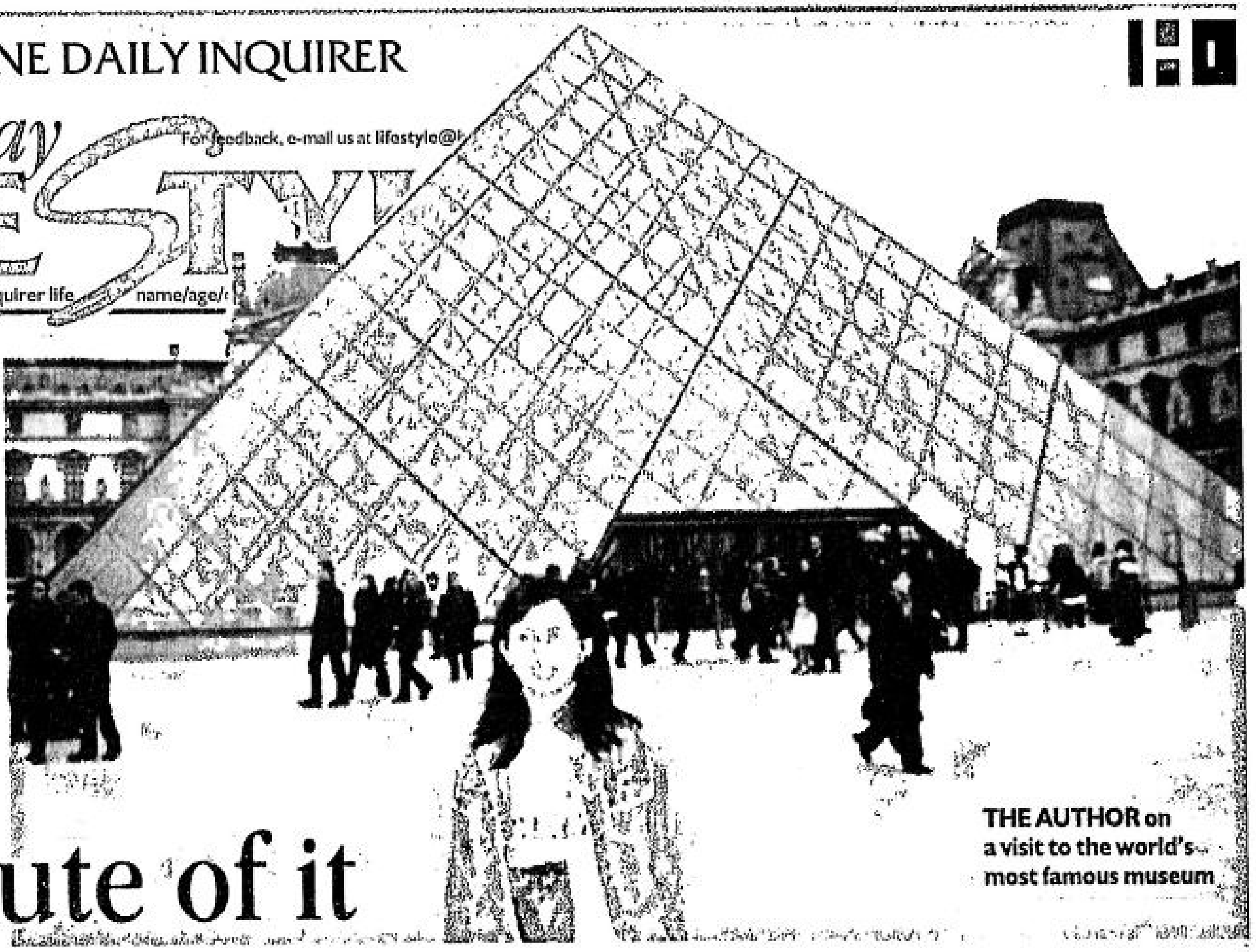
Guests will continue to enjoy pasta, seafood, meat, salad, pizza and more.

Other Italianni's Restaurant branches are at Glorietta 4, tel. 7527685; Greenbelt 2, 7280291; Alabang Town Center, 7723320; Libis, 6380828; Greenhills, 7232998; Tomas Morato, 3762382; Gateway Mall, 9123738; and SM Megamall, 6333505.

ITALIANNI'S opens at SM-Mall of Asia.



PSYCHE and Cupid



THE AUTHOR on a visit to the world's most famous museum

# At the Louvre and loving every minute of it

## A 6th grader from the School of the Holy Spirit in QC tracks down the 'Da Vinci code' in the famous Paris museum

**By Arizza Ann S. Nocum**
*Contributor*

THANKS TO DAN BROWN'S bestseller, the Louvre Museum has attracted much public interest akin to that usually showered on the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe.

However, it is also unfortunate that because of the infamous "The Da Vinci Code," the Louvre has been seen as a dark, sinister place, considering it is where the character of Jacques Sauniere is murdered in the novel.

But my visit to the Louvre last October gave me a different impression of the awesome majesty of this breathtaking place filled with wonderful paintings and statues and relics of civilizations.

The enormity of the Louvre was very striking. I had never imagined that it would stretch for miles. The museum itself was a work of art, sporting the classic Renaissance architecture. Its chambers consisted of ornate carvings. Through its massive pathways, its décor never ceased to amaze. The only thing that was entirely different from the rest was the modern glass pyramid located outside.

This pyramid actually has a controversial history. It was constructed with 666 panes of glass, said to be the number of Satan. Thus, the pyramid was said to be a symbol of bad luck. Its prominence seemingly represents the meeting of the past and the present.

As I entered the Louvre, a different tang of air greeted me. It was like that of any museum; it smelled of chemical apparently used to counteract the corrosive carbon dioxide visitors gave off.

Apparently, the ancient paintings were photo-shy. We were not allowed to take pictures of any of them because of the danger of their overexposure to light.

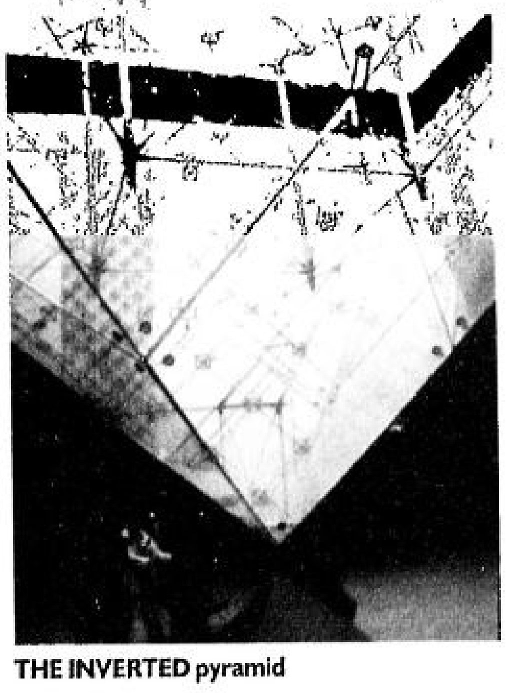
There was a surge of unexpected thoughts while I walked past the different sculptures and paintings. It was as if I was surfing through time, through the first civilizations and the periods which seemed quite near, through different styles of art that had changed little by little through time. Still, I stopped to marvel at one of the most valuable masterpieces in the Louvre, "Venus de Milo."

### Strong picture

I have seen a great deal of sculptures and I can say that "Venus de Milo" is not the most beautiful. But its portrayal of a goddess seen with no hands was quite unique in that it provided a strong picture of femininity.

Scores of statues were found here and there. The endless hallway stretched and yet, the most noticeable were the Italian sculptures namely Michaelangelo's "The Dying Slave" and "Psyche and Cupid." "The Dying Slave" gave me the feeling of wanting to break free. Its image was tattooed on my mind. "Psyche and Cupid" was a very unique portrayal of love from long ago.

AT THE LOUVRE/ H2



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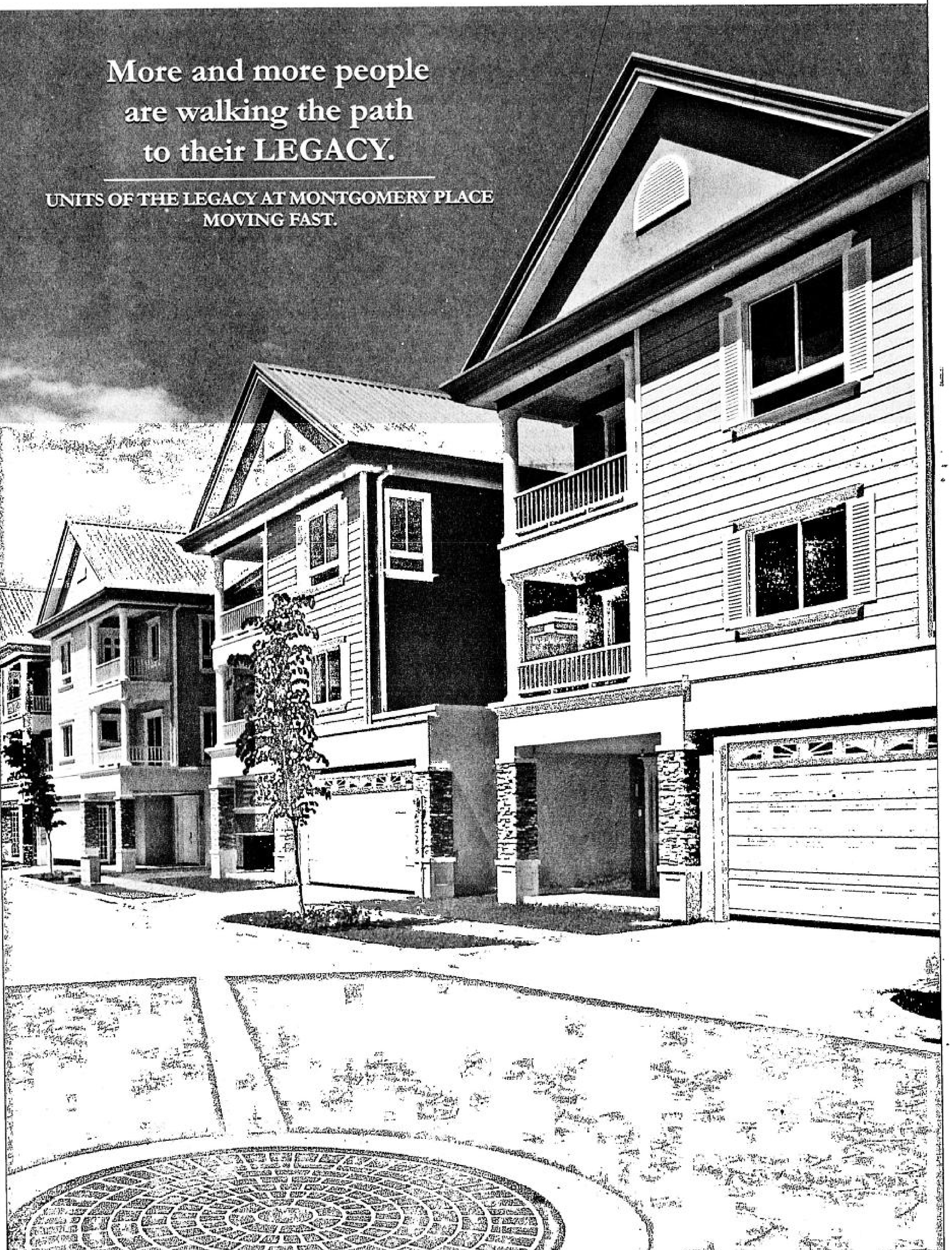

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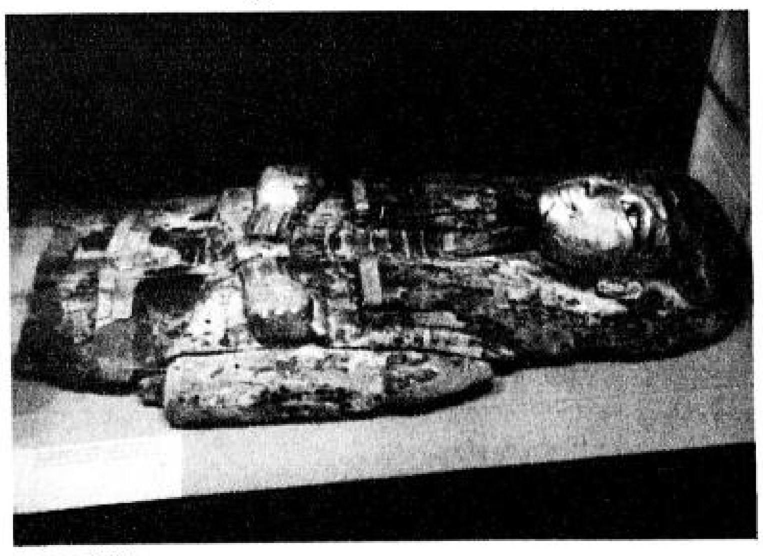

**EGYPTIAN** mummy

**PART** of the Louvre façade

# At the Louvre and loving every minute of it

From page H1

I never thought there were two pyramids in the Louvre but then, here I was standing still at the sight of an inexplicably inverse pyramid. The transparent glass created a complex impression upon me. I was just amazed how they were able to construct it.

Now, I carried on, leaving behind gasps of amazement as I saw the works of art that I had seen in many documentaries, films and books. The works of such artists as Da Vinci, Picasso, Botticcelli, Van Gogh, Michelangelo and so much more left me breathless. Standing there, between two separate flights of stairs, was the "Winged Victory." Even when I first heard the name, I was already filled with wonder.

The "Winged Victory" was actually the mast figure of a ship. It looked very ancient considering the fact that it was headless. Enduring centuries, it was certainly a symbol of heroism and joy.

## Shocking

Countless pieces of art were mentioned in the "Da Vinci Code," but the one that had the most shocking description and explanation was the "Madonna of the Rocks."

The "Madonna of the Rocks" is actually an original version for Da Vinci supposedly created it to decorate an abbey. But the nuns didn't accept it because of a shocking action displayed there. The Virgin Mary was shown there as the nuns instructed, but her left hand was seemed grasping for a human head and Angel Uriel held out her hand as if a knife sliced through the invisible head.

Da Vinci made another painting that was less mysterious, "Virgin of the Rocks."

In "The Da Vinci Code," "Madonna of the Rocks" was the painting of great mystery where cryptologist Sophie Neveu finds a key to solve the great mystery. Though creepy, "Madonna of the Rocks" is still a marvel of art.

I was still in my time machine as I entered the Salle des Etats but then, I felt as though time stopped because there it was, before my eyes, the words "La Joconde."

"La Joconde" is actually "Mona Lisa" in French. The French were obviously proud of their native tongue and so, there it was encrypted.

The very moment I saw her, I couldn't help but stare. She posed an enigmatic smile that I couldn't ever forget. Her knowingly mysterious eyes followed me as I examined her with great anticipation. She spied me as if keeping a secret. The picture was small but well-guarded. Guards were posted simply just to hinder visitors from taking pictures or touching the "Mona Lisa." Actually, she needed the extra attention.

France cried hard when she was stolen thrice. Thankfully, "Mona Lisa" is back in the museum for all to see.

The young, the old, those who seek answers and faithful Dan Brown followers all stop a while to marvel at the wonder and mystery of the most valuable object in the Louvre, the "Mona Lisa."

## Muslim artifacts

I was awed when I saw a whole room full of royal crown diamonds. The ornate walls could simply be described as breathtaking. There was no blank part of any wall left. Every corner was either studded with gold, filled with a painting or sculpture. Even though they cost a huge amount, they would never measure up to the "Mona Lisa."

Far away from home, I couldn't believe I'd see Asian artifacts and works of art in the Louvre. Still, I was there, admiring an effigy of Asian royalty.

For me, these artifacts only seemed to exist in the encyclopedia and yet now I could admire the detail and style of art being communicated to me by the very beautiful effigy. These wonders had gone such a long way and endured a devastating past and yet, there I was, amazed by them.

There were antiquities of diverse origins from the Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome and even Iran. It was startled when I saw the sarcophagus of a married couple as it was way before.

The "Statue of Ain Ghazal" was also present taking me back through time in Asia. I saw even the very ancient "Winged Bull" filled with legends I've heard of before.

Being half-Muslim, I was astonished when I saw Islamic artifacts. I saw the famous "Basin," known as the "Baptistery of Saint Louis" and the "Pyxis of al- Mughira." I felt proud to see a piece of my religion in the Louvre.

Then I witnessed one of the first and most powerful civilizations to ever walk this earth, the Egyptians. I was awed by the hieroglyphics, images of gods, stone tablets, scrolls and even a coffin with a mummy inside.

Part of the Louvre was Medieval. Every brick, every column fitted perfectly to summon the Medieval atmosphere. I didn't expect to see a Medieval moat in the Louvre but I was standing there, imagining knights and myself a damsel in distress.

My experience of the Louvre was a very rewarding one. I am glad that I was able to see it before Hollywood and Dan Brown's book reduced its artistic and structural significance to a dark and macabre suspense story involving convoluted cover-ups and conspiracy theories.

*E-mail the author at arizzadgreat@yahoo.com*

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## TRAVELBRIEFS

### Balsa festival

The 2006 Annual Balsa Festival at the Matabungkay Beach Resort and Hotel (MBRH) will be held May 26-27 in Lian, Batangas. This year's theme is "Pangalagaan ang Ating Kalikasan, Panatiliin ang Ating Kapayapaan, Isulong Natin ang Kaunlaran!" Now on its fourth year, the event will feature Balsa Race, Balsa Décor Competition and Cultural Dance Contest, participated in by students from local schools. Other activities during the two-day festival are Baratillo, Beer Plaza, Balsa Race, Balsa Décor and Street Dancing. A beach party at the Matabungkay Beach Resort and Hotel with bands from Metro Manila will cap the celebration.

### Sweet deals

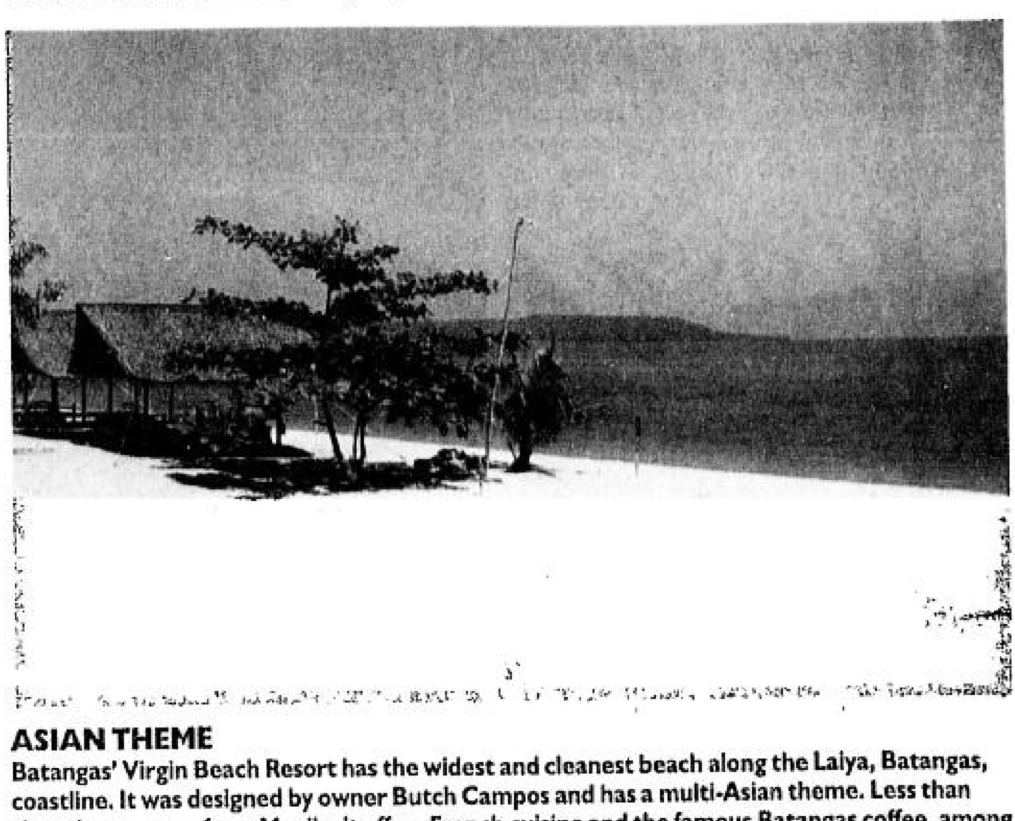
Singapore Air offers Sweet Deals with a trip to Ho Chi Minh City for $428 per person on twin sharing. The price includes round-trip economy airfare, two nights hotel accommodation in Ho Chi Minh City, round-trip airport transfers, daily breakfasts and a half-day city tour plus an overnight stay in Singapore. Sweet Deals are also available for Kuala Lumpur, Bali, Siem Reap, Australia and Maldives. Also available are round-trip airfares to Singapore, Australia and London. Visit singaporeair.com or call SIA Tours Manila at 7535151 to 52 ext. 7001 (for packages), and SIA reservations at 7538888 (for airfares); in Cebu, 2326211; and in Davao, 2245608.

### Top city

Singapore was ranked Top Convention City in Asia for the seventh time, and second in the world, according to the Amsterdam-based International Congress & Convention Association. At the top position in Asia since 1995, Singapore hosted 125 conventions last year. Barcelona hosted 116 while Vienna, the Top Convention City worldwide, hosted 129 meetings.

### Adventure feat

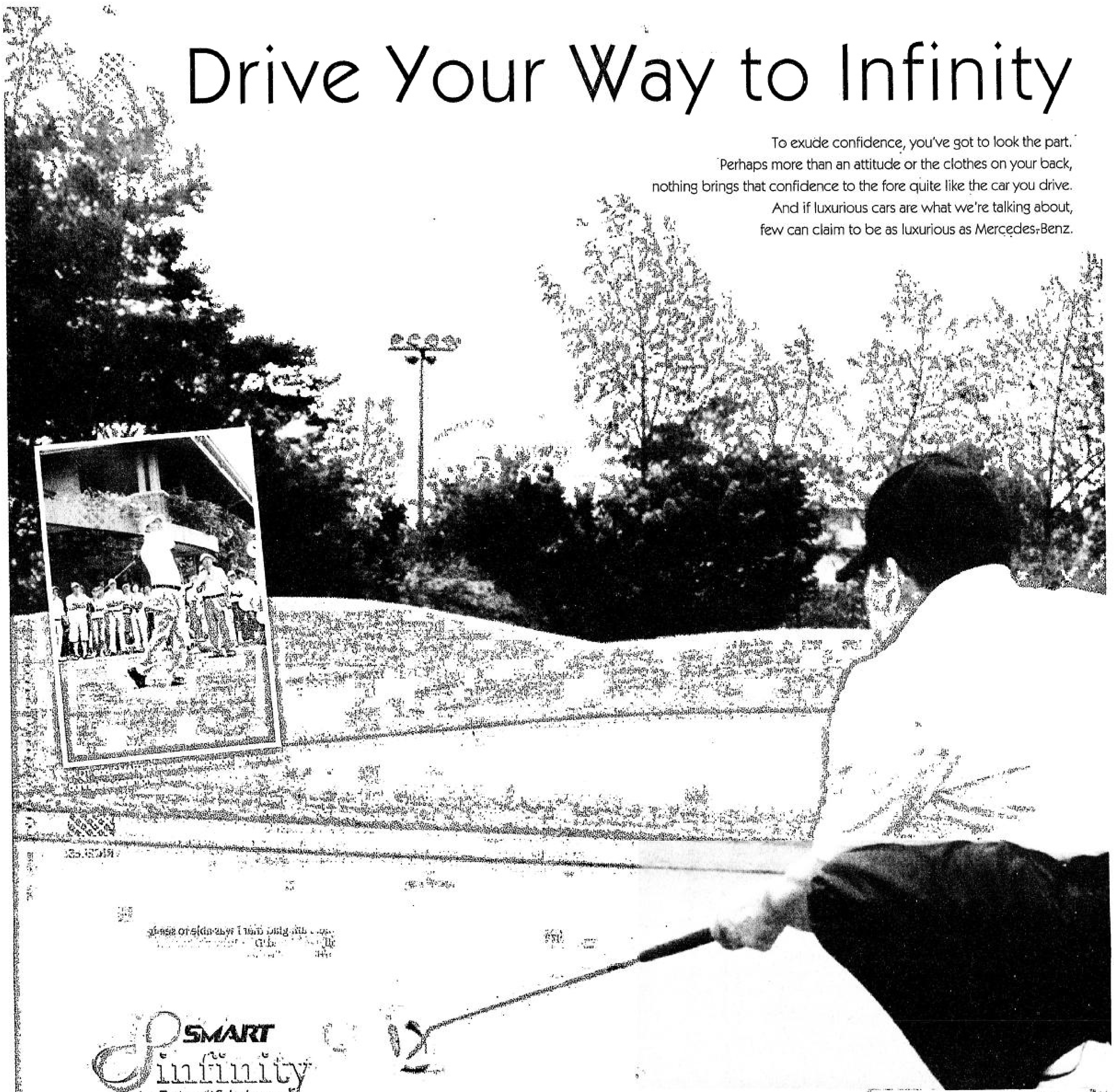
Join Island Caravan's Agusan Adventure Feat, a Wild Green Summer Environmental Summer Camp, May 25-28, and learn about the environment and conservation from educational talks and activities. It will be an action-packed four-day, three-night trip that will include outdoor camping, trekking, spelunking (cave exploration), rope lessons, climbing, rappelling and canoeing. Expert guides will assist. Also included is a visit to historical sites like the 1872 Magellan marker and curiosities like the 500-year-old Bitaog Centennial tree. The program costs P6,550. Call Island Caravan at 8961910, 8967569, and 8961893 or e-mail inquiry@islandcaravan.com



**ASIAN THEME**
Batangas' Virgin Beach Resort has the widest and cleanest beach along the Laiya, Batangas, coastline. It was designed by owner Butch Campos and has a multi-Asian theme. Less than three hours away from Manila, it offers French cuisine and the famous Batangas coffee, among others. Water, air and mountain activities such as fishing, parasailing, jet skiing and trekking in Mt. Daguldol are available to guests. Visit www.virginbeachresort.com

# Drive Your Way to Infinity

To exude confidence, you've got to look the part.
Perhaps more than an attitude or the clothes on your back,
nothing brings that confidence to the fore quite like the car you drive.
And if luxurious cars are what we're talking about,
few can claim to be as luxurious as Mercedes-Benz.



SMART infinity
*Enjoy life's best.*

Last May [illegible], SMART Infinity presented the inaugural staging of the Philippine leg of the Mercedes Trophy golf tournament. The beautiful Sta. Elena golf course in Cabuyao, Laguna served as a perfect backdrop for top executives and business leaders from all over the Philippines. For the past [illegible] years, the regional Mercedes Trophy had been staged in eight different Asian countries. Through the support of SMART Infinity and CATS Motors, together with [illegible] Inc., Cathay Pacific in cooperation with [illegible] [illegible] Sta. Elena Village, Shangri-la Hotel and Resorts, Rustan's, Johnnie Walker and [illegible], the Mercedes Trophy finally made its way to the Philippines.

From the ceremonial tee-off onward, the [illegible] brought on the players, having been [illegible] a [illegible] from the recently departed storm. There was more than pride at stake in this tournament, as the winners of the three divisions will be flown business class via Cathay Pacific to Queensland, Australia and represent the Philippines in the all-expense paid Mercedes Trophy Regional Asian Finals on August [illegible] to [illegible], 2008.

Though competition was definitely in the air, the prevailing mood was still light and humorous as comrades from various industries parlayed their love for golf and the exquisite beauty that one can only find behind the wheel of a Mercedes-Benz. Division A champion Lee Ho Gil stamped his class on the rest of the field, emerging as big winner of the day. Joining him on the flight to Australia will be Division B winner Emmanuel Te and Freddie Sarabia, the winner of Division C.

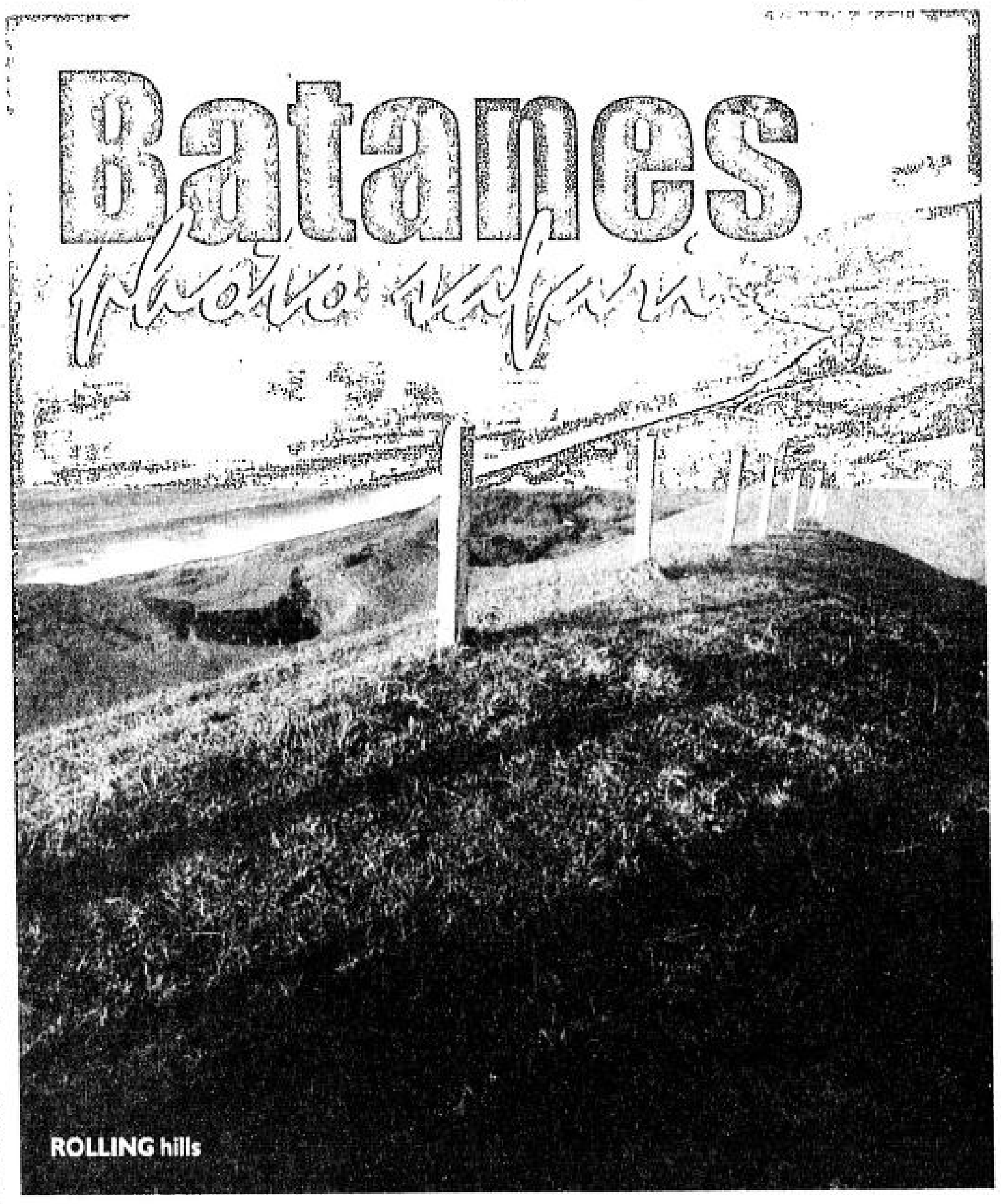
PLDT and SMART President Napoleon L. Nazareno joined in the fun by receiving a special prize for being "Nearest to the Pin on Hole # 4" and graciously thanked his fellow competitors for making the Mercedes Trophy a resounding success. With such a well-attended tournament, and [illegible] players, SMART Infinity looks forward to [illegible] Mercedes Trophy [illegible]

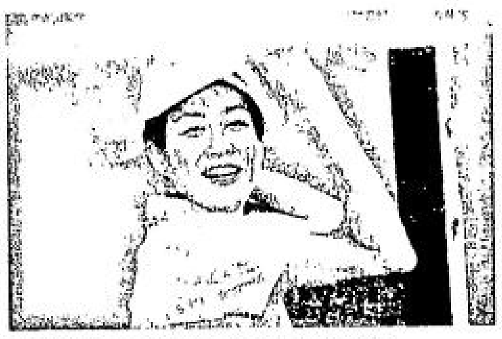
SMART infinity
Mercedes Trophy
SMART infin
BOARDING PASS

Cathay Pacific's Country Manager **Vivian Lo**, CATS President **Felix Ang**, **Division B winner** Emmanuel Te, **Division C** winner **Freddie Sarabia, Division A** champion **Lee Ho Gil** and CATS Chairman **Gregorio Yu**

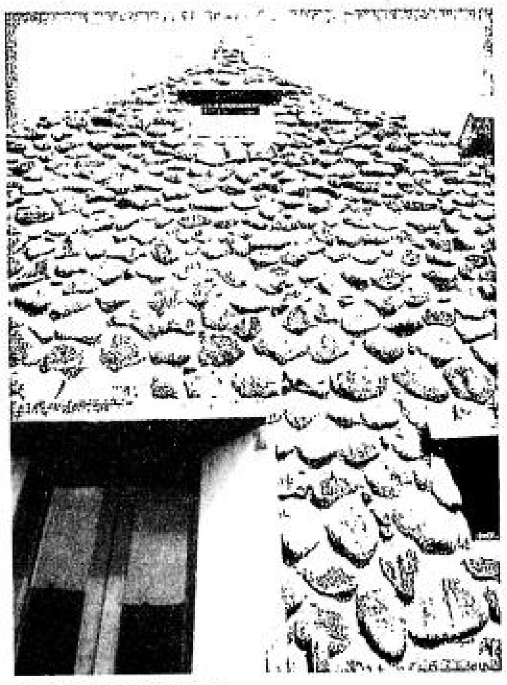
Tournament Chairman **Emy Arcilla**, Eric Alberto, Julie Carceller, Augie Palisoc and Dick Ferrer

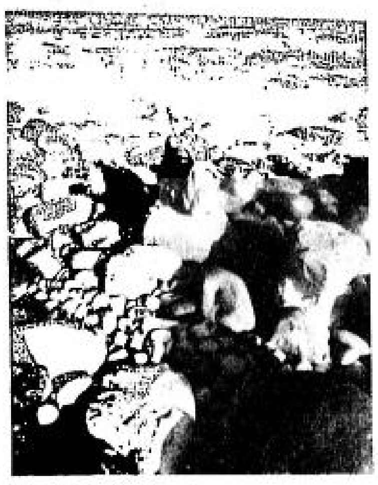
# Batanes
## photo safari


ROLLING hills


**LIANA** Romulo for a happy portrait

**SABTANG** lighthouse


**FUNDACION** Pacita


**BOULDER** Beach

**SHOOTING** on the beach

**BATCH I** of Batanes Photo Safari

**Photos by Mandy Navasero**

THE MANDY NAVASERO Batanes Photo Safari Part II is on May 21-24, Sunday to Wednesday, via Asian Spirit, the only airline that flies to Batanes.

See Sabtang, one of the 10 islands where Ivatan culture is best preserved, including the famous Ivatan stone houses, the unique headgear and the craggy coastline reminiscent of Scotland. The houses feature meter-thick stone walls and foot-thick cogon thatch roofs. There are lighthouses, all functional, guiding seafarers to safer shores.

The Chawa Viewdeck in Mahatao looks out to the lapis lazuli splendor of the China Sea. Another not-to-be-missed sight is the house of Dakay, the oldest example of Ivatan stone house architecture with its 87-year-old tenant, Florestida Estrella. The Songsong ruins in Uyugan town is a reminder of the 1954 tidal wave which miraculously spared lives but destroyed stone houses.

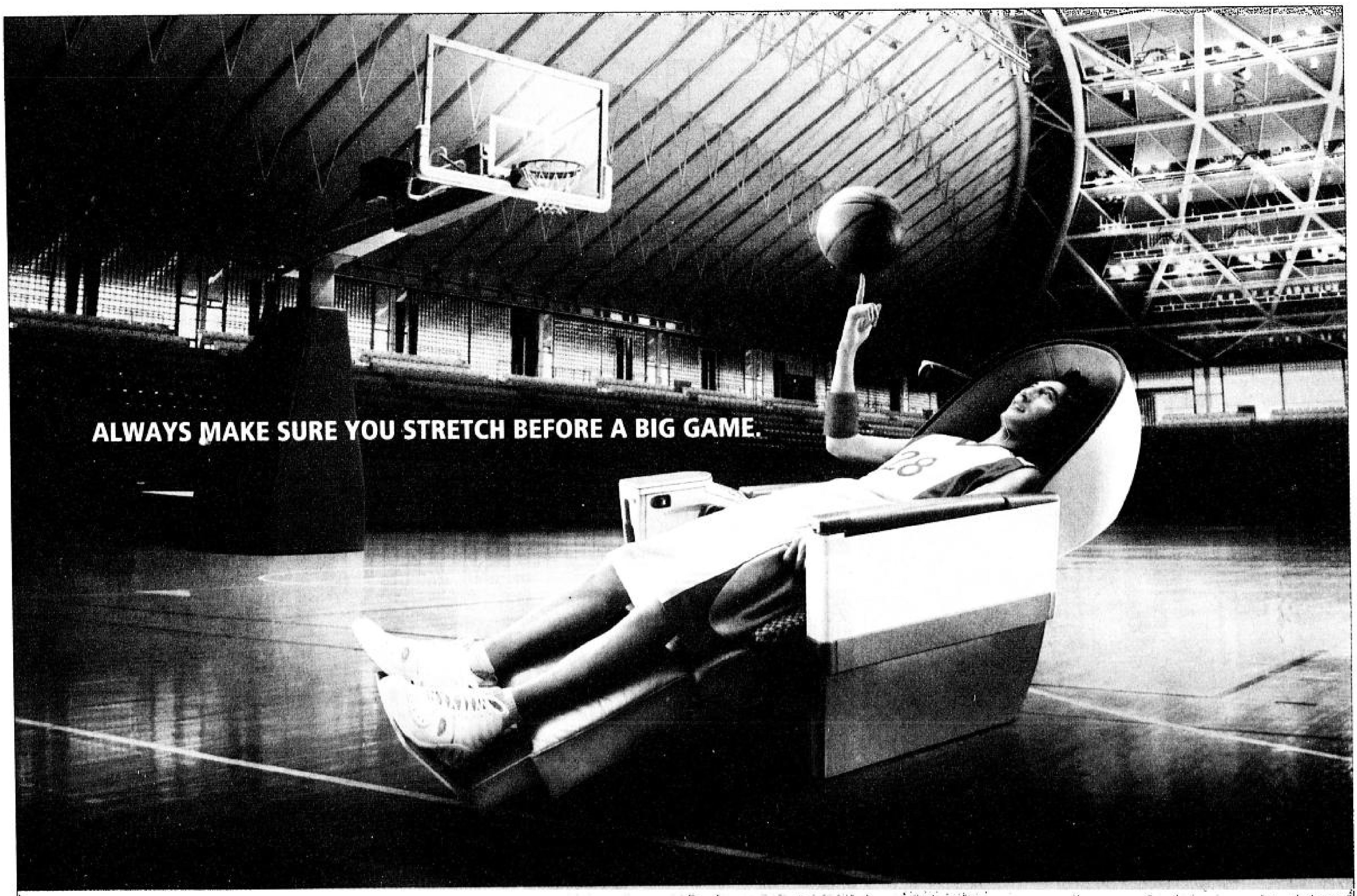
In Batanes, "Marlboro Country" refers to pasture land in Rakuh Apayaman. Standing atop a breezy bill in the area, one looks out into the mesmerizing sight of the deep blue sea. Trekking to the "Fountain of Youth," a freshwater spring, and down to the Diura fishing village, one again encounters the endless stretch of the shoreline, where you can look down into crystal-clear, unpolluted waters.

The old churches and abandoned naval station serve as additional postcard subjects to photographers. The view from the house of former Education Secretary Butch Abad captures, the endless sea meeting the horizon. Across the hill is the Fundacion Pacita Abad housing Ivatan artworks, the structure sporting a stylized Ivatan façade.

The "Boulder Beach," so named for the arresting sight of huge polished rocks covering the entire stretch of the beach, is breathtaking. The highlight of the Photo Safari is the vista of rolling hills in Vayang where one can hike, watch and shoot the sunset.

Only in Batanes can there be an "Honesty Store," where people can get merchandise, list down what they have taken and leave the payment in a box. Amazingly, the system works.

*Call 8991767 or 8963208. E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com or drop by Mandy Navasero Studio at Room 227, LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel Air II, Makati City.*



I hit the court at the top of my game whenever I travel on Northwest Airlines World Business Class℠. Obviously I need a long seat, and this one's the longest and only lie-flat business class seat on a U.S. carrier. The built-in lumbar massager helps me loosen up before the game. And to get me in the zone, there are more than 40 channels of movies, music and games on demand to watch from the privacy of my cocoon-shaped canopy. Sweet.

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SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2006

Republic of the Philippines
**National Transmission Corporation**
*South Luzon Operations and Maintenance*
Trans Co

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

***Replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalayaan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (From Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-88) (38.532 circuit km.)***

The proposed project is located in Laguna Province with an estimated length of 38.532 circuit kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools, and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

*[TRANS-06-ROHGWMK-EG-05]*

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *One Million Seven Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine & 94/100 (Php1,794,769.94)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Replacement of 19.26 km Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalayaan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (From Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-88) (38.532 circuit km.)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for *the Replacement of 19.26 km Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalayaan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (from Tower no 26-64, Tower No 77-88)*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB License*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Specialties"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)***, respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving installation/construction of transmission lines rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***June 09, 2006, 9:00 A.M*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***60 working days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***May 22-June 08, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php1,000.00*. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***June 09, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***June 09, 2006, 9:00 A. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***June 28-30, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee *Php5,000.00*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***June 28-30, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***July 07, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***July 19, 2006, 9:30 A. M*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***July 19, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance*
*Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*
*San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024*
*Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman*
*(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4094; 4086; 4053*
*rgcastuera@transco.ph*
*(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007*
*www.transco.ph.*

***(SGD). RUBEN G. CASTUERA***
BAC Chairman

(PDI–May 21 & 29, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
**National Transmission Corporation**
*South Luzon Operations and Maintenance*
Trans Co

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

***Rehabilitation of 52BS4 Batangas-Bolbok-CIP 69 kV Transmission Line (Phase 1)***

The proposed project is located in Batangas Province, South Region. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement/rehabilitation of existing 69 kV wood pole transmission line structures with direct burial steel pole structures including dressing, grounding, overhead ground wires and guying and anchor assembly in accordance with the requirements of the plans and specifications.

*[TRANS-04-R52BS4BBCIP-EG-10-PB2]*

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Fifteen Million Five Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen & 28/100 (Php15,574,819.28)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Rehabilitation of 52BS4 Batangas-Bolbok-CIP 69 kV Transmission Line (Phase 1)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for *the rehabilitation of 52BS4 BBCIP 69 kV Transmission Line*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category B, Specialties"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Medium A, Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)***, respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving supply and installation of steel poles rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***June 08, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***80 working days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***May 22-June 07, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php1,500.00*. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***June 08, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***June 08, 2006, 9:00 A. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***June 28-30, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee *Php7,000.00*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***June 28-30, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***July 06, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***July 18, 2006, 9:30 A. M*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***July 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance*
*Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*
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*(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007*
*www.transco.ph.*

***(SGD). RUBEN G. CASTUERA***
BAC Chairman

(PDI–May 21 & 29, 2006)

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BCDA

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

### Construction of Twelve (12) Overpasses in Bataan and Tarlac

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through the BCDA 2006 Corporate Funds intends to apply the sum of **Pesos: TWO HUNDRED EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND (P208,208,000.00)** for the projects listed hereunder, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Services shall be for the Contract for the Construction of Twelve (12) Overpasses in Tarlac and Bataan. The works shall include, but not limited to the following:

Construction of the Following Overpasses:
- Tinang Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Sto. Nino Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Ligaya I Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Pitabunan Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Mabilog Overpass- Luisita I at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Pando Overpass – Luisita II at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Ligaya II Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Ligaya III Overpass (Maligaya) at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Sta. Maria Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Palanas Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Maite Overpass at Hemosa, Bataan; and
- San Ramon Overpass at Dinalupihan, Bataan

BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Re-bidding for Construction of the aforecited Project. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract (at least AAA, Large B, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Applicants must submit their LOIs from 29 to 31 May 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only and obtain the Application for Eligibility to Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Twenty Thousand (P20,000.00)** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **20 June 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** and the **Opening at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City **Late submission of Eligibility Documents shall be accepted only for recording purposes but will not be considered and will be returned unopened.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the SCTEP BAC Secretariat at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before **20 June 2006 at 11:00 a.m.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 27 June 2006.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-B Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00).** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 27 to 30 June 2006.**

BCDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection open to all Eligible Bidders on **16 August 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **30 August 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form

a. Cash, managers check, cashiers' check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
c. Surety Bond from a reputable insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract.

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **30 August 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on the same day.

Completion of the Works is required by **a total of Two Hundred Eighty Five (285) calendar days.**

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Further information may be obtained from Ms. Nancy Paje, Head of SCTEP - BAC Secretariat.

**BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
**BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St.**
**Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City**
**Telephone Number (632) 816-6666 Telfax No. (632) 816-0996**
**Website: www. bcda.gov.ph**

**(Sgd.) VICTOR V. ZABLAN**
Chairman, SCTEP - BAC

(PDI–May 21 & 26, 2006)

---

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721-8938 to 39

---

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**Republic of the Philippines**
Department of Health
**SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL**
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila, Philippines
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 78; 732-31-06
E-mail Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph & mcell@info.com.ph

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturers/retailers to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of **Hospital Supplies and Materials for the 2nd Semester, July-December 2006; Hospital Contractual Services for Security and Laundry. Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.**

Application forms for **ELIGIBILITY** shall be available upon payment of non- refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) from May 10-24, 2006 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Unit, San Lazaro Hospital. Please bring original copies of all submitted document for proper authentication

Interested Eligible Bidders can obtain the BID DOCUMENTS at the BAC Secretariat located at the Procurement Unit, San Lazaro Hospital from May 22, 2006 up to the date before the opening of the bids by category and upon payment of non refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the hospital Collection Unit.

| | |
|---|---|
| • Drugs and Medicines Supplies | Php2,000.00 |
| • Laboratory Supplies/Reagents | Php1,500.00 |
| • Medical Supplies | Php1,000.00 |
| • Medical Gases & Oxygen | Php2,000.00 |
| • Radiology/ Dietary/Janitorial Supplies | Php 500.00 per category |
| • Maintenance Supplies/Linen Supplies | Php 500.00 per category |
| • Laundry Service | Php1,000.00 |
| • Security Service | Php1,000.00 |

General **PRE-BID CONFERENCE** will be held on **MAY 26, 2006** at **9:00 am** at **SLH Amphitheater**, San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

**OPENING OF BID** must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the time/dates specified herein per category on which said bids will be opened to the Public, to wit:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Drugs and Medicines Supplies | 9:01 am | June 7, 2006 |
| • Laboratory Supplies/Reagents | 1:31 pm | |
| • Medical Supplies/Gases & Oxygen | 9:01 am | June 8, 2006 |
| • Dietary/Foodstuff | 1:31 pm | |
| • Radiology Supplies | 2:31 pm | |
| • Janitorial Supplies/Linen Supplies | 3:01 pm | |
| • Maintenance Supplies | 9:01 am | June 9, 2006 |
| • Laundry Service | 1:31 pm | |
| • Security Service | 2:31 pm | |

Each BID must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than the percentage of the Approved Budget Cost per category in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS)

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 3099552 and Procurement Unit 3099517.

***THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS AND REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.***

(Sgd.) **ELEONORITA E. REYES**
Chairperson
SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by
**ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA**
Medical Center Chief II
Posted at the G-EPS Website

(PDI – May 14 and 21, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
**HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION**

## NOTICE OF SALE

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is offering for sale, in Cash or installment, an acquired asset identified as follows:

| DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY | LOCATION | TOTAL AREA | MINIMUM BID |
|---|---|---|---|
| BONAHOMES PROJECT<br>Three (3) parcels of rawland, classified for residential use and covered by TCTs T-156859 / T-156860 / T-156861 | Brgy. Calamias, Lipa City | 57,835 sq.m. | P42,292,250.00 |

**General Guidelines:**
1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" and "BULK SALE" bases.
2. All bidders may offer to buy the property in cash or installment term. Only cash purchases shall be entitled to discounts.
3. Terms of Payment:
   3.1 For CASH offers, the following discount rates apply:
      - 10% if paid within 30 days from signing of sale document
      - 6% if paid with 60 days from signing of sale document
      - 3% if paid within 90 days from signing of sale document.

   3.2 For INSTALLMENT bids (discounts are not applicable);
      - 20% minimum down payment;
      - Balance payable over a maximum term of (12) equal monthly amortizations at 12% interest per annum.
4. Sealed Proposals should be submitted to Home Guaranty Corporation, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City not later than May 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., at which place, date and time, the bids will be opened and tabulated in the presence of attending Bidders or their authorized representatives.
5. All bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before entering their bids.

HGC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their respective bids.

The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the HGC Board of Directors.

HGC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formally therein without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous and beneficial to the corporation. THE DECISION OF HGC IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call Engr. Jonathan B. Briones or Karen Marie A. Bahia of the Regional Operations Group, Home Guaranty Corporation at 897-3295 and 897-3022, or you may visit our office at 5/F, Jade Bldg., 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

(Sgd.) **JIMMY B. SARONA**
VP-Regional Operations Group

(PDI–May 21, 2006)

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## PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 900-2650/900-0689 Fax No. (045) 901-0534
E-mail: pelco_2@yahoo.com

May 18, 2006

### INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) UNITS ISUZU FORWARD AUGER DRILL TRUCK AND ONE (1) UNIT FUSO CANTER WITH AEREAL LADDER AND BASKET.

**Specification:**

ISUZU FORWARD AUGER DRILL TRUCK (RE-CONDITIONED)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Model | - | FRR32FB |
| Engine | - | 6HE1 (lathe model) |
| Horse Power | - | 195Hp |
| Capacity | - | 7,127 cc |
| Tire Size | - | 8.25-20 |
| CRANE | | |
| Capacity | - | 6-7 tons |
| Boom Max. Length | - | 40 ft. |

FUSO CANTER WITH AEREAL LADDER AND BASKET (RE-CONDITIONED)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Model | - | FE335B |
| Engine | - | 4D32 |
| Horse Power | - | 110 Hp |
| Capacity | - | 3,567 cc |
| Tire Size | - | 7.00-16 |
| Capacity (Truck) | - | 4-5 tons |
| Capacity (Basket) | - | 400-500 kgs. |
| Boom Max. Length | - | 40 ft. |

You are therefore invited to submit your bids/proposals to the PBAC and participate in a sealed bidding on May 26, 2006 (Friday), 10:30 a.m. at PELCO II Social Hall 3rd Floor San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS ASIDE FROM **THE BID AMOUNT, THE TERMS OF PAYMENT.** THE BID BOND IS EITHER IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2.5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OR SURETY BOND (W/ O.R.) EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE. ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 10:30 A.M. TO SECURE BID DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT PBAC CHAIRPERSON ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS, TEL. NO. (045) 900-2650 OR MR. NEIL S. ISIP (045) 901-0864.

LATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBAC HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS**
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE, JR.**
General Manager

(PDI - May 21 & 22, 2006)

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## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
## RFA (492-06-008)

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies and local government units in strengthening systems, commitment and support for essential health services such as family planning, maternal and child health, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, which will help the Regional Government, local governments and the communities in the ARMM Region to improve their health status in a sustainable way.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
## RFA (492-06-009)

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to implement a capacity/capability building and systems strengthening program to strengthen appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies' and Local Government Units' (LGU) commitment to and support for public health services and enhance LGU capacity to provide and manage quality health services sustainably – especially family planning (FP, maternal and child health (MCH), tuberculosis (TB), HIV-AIDS, and other infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(PDI - May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

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## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
## RFA (492-06-005)

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and local government units to strengthen a health policy process that will improve health sector performance. It is envisioned that the selected Recipient will provide assistance in improving the policy environment and financing of essential health services.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
## RFA (492-06-006)

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist public and private sector institution in the Philippines prevention and control of tuberculosis (TB) as well as address critical issues on emerging and reemerging infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
## RFA (492-06-007)

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to implement a program to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies and local government units to broaden the reach, improve the quality and sustain health promotion and communication to increase appropriate healthy behaviors and practices and consequently improve the health status of the Filipinos.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(PDI - May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

Needed Immediately

## GENERAL MANAGER

for
GUIMARAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (GUIMELCO)
Jordan, Guimaras

**Qualifications:**

- 30-50 years old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering, (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Jordan, Guimaras

**Starting Salary : P 30,000.00**

Application form and additional information maybe obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Buidling, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 07 June 2006.

(Sgd.) EDITHA S. BUENO
Administrator

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
*Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City*
Telefax: 636-65-42
Direct Line 636-65-43
Trunk Line 632-13-61 local 2115
Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply and Delivery of the following:

| Package | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | Pre-Bid Conference | Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids | Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable) | Venue | End user |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Development and Mass Production of Video Lessons and User's Guide in Second Year Mathematics (Intermediate Algebra) in Compact Discs | Php 2,100,000.00 | May 22, 2006, 10:00 A.M. | June 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M. | Php1,000.00 | Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal 1 Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City | Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE) |

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents in Compact Disc (CD) or hard copy shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting May 15, 2006 upon payment in cash of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **Atty. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – May 14 & 21, 2006)

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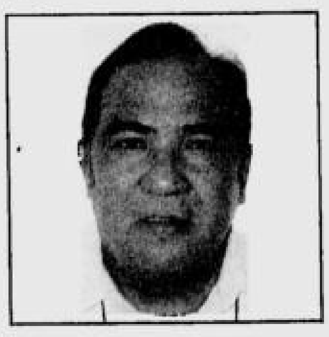
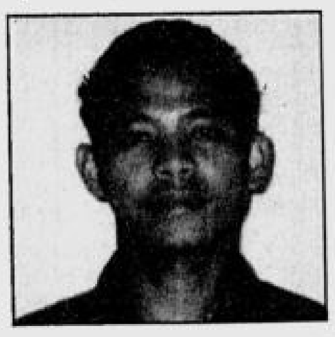
PHILAM LIFE

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Mr. Carmelo V. Dela Peña** & **Mr. Donnel M. Timbal**, whose pictures and address appear below have ceased to represent The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or PHILAMLIFE in any capacity whatsoever in view of the termination their agency contracts effective March 15, 2006 & April 15, 2006, respectively.



**MR. CARMELO V. DELA PEÑA**
48th East 3rd Angela Village, Talon 4
Las Piñas City



**MR. DONNEL M. TIMBAL**
JED Farm, Dalwagan, Malaybalay City
Bukidnon 8700

Any transaction made or entered into by these persons for and on behalf of PHILAMLIFE after March 15, 2006 & April 15, 2006, respectively, is not valid and will not be honored by us.

(PDI – May 21, 2006)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT!

**FERNA CORPORATION** (The Food Ingredients Specialist) is currently in need of young, dynamic people to join our team. Below are the required qualifications for the following job openings:

**PLANT & OFFICE ENGINEER** (CODE: P&A/POE/S)

- Male, not over 35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
- Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Has experience in plant and office maintenance
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality, resourceful, creative, hardworking and trustworthy

**PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION STAFF** (CODE: PAD/S)

- Female, not over 35 years old
- College graduate
- With excellent computer skills (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- With job experience in Personnel & Administration
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality, resourceful, hardworking and trustworthy

**CREDIT & COLLECTION STAFF** (CODE: FAD/CCS)

- Female, not over 35 years old
- College graduate
- With job experience in credit and collection
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality, resourceful, hardworking and trustworthy
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

**FERNA CORPORATION**
The Food Ingredients Specialist!
16 Bernardo St., San Rafael Village, MM
(near Tondo, Manila)
**Interested applicants may call at 2515302-06.**
**Look for BETH OR RHEA.** You may fax your resumé with 2x2 photo and the indicated application code at 253-5920/2536192 or email it at ferna@info.com.ph

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# Industry slate golf tourney

THE NATIONAL REAL ESTATE Association (NREA), the one-stop trade organization in the real estate and housing industry, will hold its 8th Annual Chairman's Cup Invitational Golf Tournament on May 26 (Fri.) at the all-weather Kagitingan Golf Course in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, it was announced by Jose "Ka Pepe" Manalad, NREA president and founder.

Invited for the ceremonial tee-off at 7:30 a.m. are Sen. Rodolfo Biazon; Rep. Eduardo Zialcita; DAR Sec. Nasser Pangandaman, AFP Chief of Staff Generoso Senga; PNP Chief Arturo Lomibao; PLRA Chairman Edgar Aglipay; Gov. Tomas Joson III; Sec Roberto Pagdanganan; Goodyear Phils. Pres. David Joseph Morin; Urban Planner Nathaniel von Einsiedel; HDMF President/CEO Romero Quimbo; NHMFC President Jopet Sison and NREA Chair Nestor Mangio.

An annual main sportsfest and a fundraiser for NREA's year-long outreach projects, the golf tournament is chaired by Col. Felizardo Simoy, joined by Architect Abelardo Tolentino, Jr., Vice chairman; EVP Alejandro Mañalac; PRO Marissa del Mar; Jesse Rebustillo; Eulogio Malicse, Engr. Jun Concepcion, golfer Malou Doles and Bobby Vicencio, members.

The tournament will also foster camaraderie, fellowship and fun among private and government housing officials; real estate housing practitioners; and golf aficionados who are invited to attend the event.

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Public is hereby informed that criminal cases for violation of the Bouncing Checks Law (B.P. 22) has been filed against

**JOEY JIMENEZ**

of **(DANWELL CONCEPTS) 6th Floor PIFCO Bldg., 2300 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City**, docketed as Criminal Cases Nos. 335150 and 333306, pending before the Municipal Trial Court of Makati City, Branch 66.

**AN ALIAS WARRANT OF ARREST HAS BEEN ISSUED AGAINST HIM.**

Please contact the following numbers: (0917) 886-8160; (0917) 873-0552; or (02) 812-8242.

(PDI-May 21, 2006)

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Our Law firm is in urgent need of a:

## LAWYER

Recently admitted to the Bar, highly motivated, with superior interpersonal skills and excellent advocacy skills, both oral and written.

Interested applicants may send their resumés and transcript of records to:

SUGAY LAW
Unit 1903 Medical Plaza Ortigas
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City
sugaylaw@mozcom.com

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# *TransCo-North Luzon gets certification from IMS*

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation - North Luzon Operation & Maintenance (TransCo-NLOM) Group has stepped-up its commitment to providing the best service for its customers and stakeholders with the recent awarding of another international recognition – the Integrated Management System (IMS).

TransCo President and CEO Dr. Alan T. Ortiz announced that its NLOM Group was recently recognized for having complied with the international standards for the IMS which consists of the following: quality management system (ISO 9001:2000), environmental management system (ISO 14001: 2004) and occupational health and safety assessment (OHSAS 18001:1999).

The group's ISO 9001:2000 seal of excellence for quality management system has actually already been awarded in April last year, but this was grouped with the two other standards to form the more comprehensive Integrated Management System.

"This certification particularly reflects our commitment to both environmental and employee safety concerns," President Ortiz said.

The formal awarding of the IMS certificates will be held at TransCo's Santiago substation in Isabela on May 25.

The North Luzon office is the first functional group in TransCo to have complied with all three international standards. Independent certifying body Certification International Philippines conducted the IMS Certification Audit.

The NLOM Group is composed of seven districts and two Power Systems Maintenance Departments (PSMDs) which operate and maintain substations and transmission lines spanning the 21 provinces of Northern Luzon. To date, there are 39 substations and 6,031 circuit kilometers of transmission lines in the area.

Last year, TransCo completed the ISO 9001:2000 certification for all its key functional groups which include the System Operations (nationwide), Engineering Design and Construction, Project Man- agement, Administration, and the O&M Groups of North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

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- Rosal St. w/ resd'l compd. 4826m² Nr. J. Solon Drive;
- North Reclamation Humabon Ave; 4th Ave; 5th Ave; Vacant lots 850; 876; 1039m²
- Bacalso Ave. (South Expressway) Rear Padilla St. 10,101m²
- Sambag Alcantara St (P. Del Rosario Ext) Cor Lot 3233m²
- Busay Cor Lot 4379m² Near TOPS

**DUMAGUETE CITY**
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BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids 1-2 grge P3.820Mup 8903461

NEW CONDO GRNBLT MKT 34.30 SZ CL 09152114248 P2.4M SANLA 400TH

Rush Penthse Cortijos Condo 255m² 4BR Md's Rm. Rfdeck Prkg G'hills Benzon 0919-6495230 WELCOME BROKERS Rent/Sale

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324m² Semi-Coml 2clean titles 3ofc Comnwealth QC nr. Isuzu 28T/m² Becky Aguila 932-8261

4.5M 356 sqm nr Reg. of Deeds Marikina back of Mcdo Hiway 600T vac. Lot 197 sqm Carolina Vill.,Antipolo nr Gate 2 Cogeo 1.5M 50sqm RFO NR Ortigas 09208309744 / 6399439 Chollia

**FAIRVIEW-FORTUNE ST**
1000m²@4800 w/fence 4260531/6266 09175335635

★AYALA FERNDALE QC
219m² 939-0245

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149m² 0915-9960742, 0918-4229843

Mac-Arthur Highway Dalandanan, Valenzuela City, 13000sqm Industrial lot w/ old bodega, newtruck, weighing scale, office Res & fully fence P3900sqm Call Danny 0922-8900008

Mandaluyong 1800m²
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METROVILLE SUBD 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE 120m² @P5,750/m² PARKPLACE 149m² @P5,023/m²ST. CHARBEL 371m² @P2,399m² DON BOSCO EXEC HTS 128m² @P2,148 /m² Vic 8903461 LOC 27

PROGRESSIVE VILLAGE 12 LA207m² & 200m² @ P3,850/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RAINBOW VILLAGE V LA216m² Brand New House 3Bdrms 2T&B P1.95M Vic 8903461 loc 25

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### LOT

**SN PEDRO LAGUNA**
573m²@P3th/m² neg 658-5751 Tessie Ofc hrs

SOUTHPEAK P5,000/m² 240m² Vic / Gigie 8903461 loc 25 / 27

Tagaytay Lot 180sqm P6,200/sqm 740-17-56 / 09164472304

**•TAGAYTAY•**
1,000m²@P6th/m² Neg 658-5751 Tessie Ofc hrs

### BUSINESS SPACE

BUENDIA OFF/CLINIC/DISP. NR CASH N CARRY / BUS STOP AREA 36SQM T7292929

FOOD STALL 70K ALL IN Call/Txt • 0921-7723423

### MEMORIAL LOT

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SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

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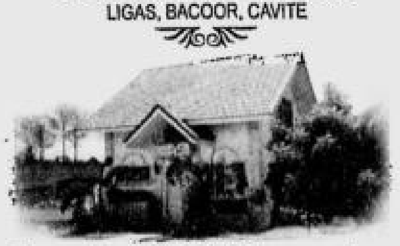

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97 PwrVan Like Now P265 97 Speed MT GLXI A1 P238 1Own 455-5889 0920-9080828

FORD LYNX GHIA 2001 350 NEG 450KM CD CHANGER BLUE EP8 CALL (0915)5144247

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1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ PAWNSHOP INC. #7611 CAEG Bldg. Dela Rosa St.,Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on May 27, 2006 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to December. 2005.V. Zamora Jr. llc.Auctioneer.
(PDI - MAY 21, 2006)

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Felipe Alejandrino was extra-judicially settled by his heirs w/waiver of rights per Doc. 070, Page 15, Book XLII, Series of 2006 & Doc. 046, Page 11, Book XLII, Series of 2006, before Notary Public Isidro Almenteros of Manila (May 14, 21, 28, 2006)

Notice is given that the estate of the late Severino S. Cruz & Virginia Sibayan Cruz was extrajudicially settled by their heirs w/waiver of right per Doc. 141, Page 29, Book XXII, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Mangulat of Q.C. (PDI-May 14, 21, 28, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE PEDRO R. COLLADO WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 382, PAGE NO. 77, BOOK NO. 11, SERIES OF 2005 OF THE NOTARIAL REGISTRY OF ATTY. JOSE TEODORICO V. MOLINA OF QUEZON CITY (PDI- 5 / 14, 21, 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MILAGROS G. ESPINOSA was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share by her heirs before Notary Public Jovencio P. Fulgueras of Quezon City per Document No. 43 Page No. 9 Book No. 7 Series of 2006 (PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the Intestate Estate of the late Jacobe Y. Imperial was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement identified as per Doc. No. 76, Page No. 17, Book No. XII, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City (PDI-May 7, 14, 21, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late WILFREDO L. CARRILLO and HELEN CARRILLO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc. No. 208; Page No. 42; Book No. XVI; Series of 2005 by Notary Public Melina O. Tecson of Makati City.
(PDI- May 7, 14 & 21, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HERNANDO M. SEVILLA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc 404 Page 81 Book II Series 2004 before Notary Public Cecile R. Gonzales-Yumul, Makati City
PDI-May 7, 14 & 21, 2006

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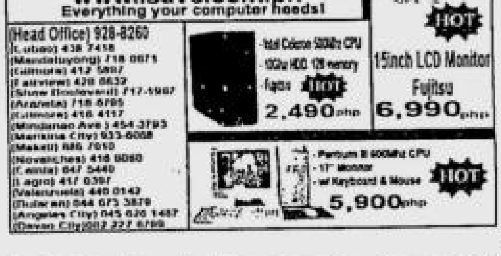

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**CIVIL ENGINEER**
Female, not more than 30 years old, computer literate with experience, with or without license
Bring resumé with attached 2x2 photo and NBI Clearance at
249 Quirino Highway, Baesa,
Quezon City

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **BENJAMIN F. BALITAAN** was extrajudicially settled with waiver as per Doc. No. 189, Page No. 39, Book No. XXIV, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Atty. Angelo G. Medina of Pasig City.
(PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO E. CALING has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 067; Page No. 14; Book No. I; series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Rona A. Albalos-Demetria of Pasig City (PDI-May 7, 14, 21, 2006)

### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice hereby given that the following Phil Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Common Stock certificates had been reported lost:
MFO 180237 for 6 shares
MFO 180235 for 13 shares
MFO 231528 for 4 shares
Doc.Nos.313 &314 Page No.64 Book No.45 Series of 2006 If no Contest received,New Stock Certificate shall be issued
(PDI May 21,28 & June 4,'06)

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCTNG SEC. SINGLE FEMALE 7417060 7312373

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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# You use sunblock for your skin, why not for your eyes

AHHH, GLORIOUS SUN! WE'VE ALL BEEN waiting for it. That uninterrupted glow of energy that we long for so we can go out more often to take on the challenges of the outdoors. But fun in the sun could also spell trouble.

"Never worry," you say, because you've already learned, albeit painfully, the lesson of going out in the sun without protection. Now, you're armed with skin sun block and the latest style of really cool dark glasses you just bought for a song from your friendly neighborhood tiangge.

Unfortunately, experts say these are not enough, especially when it comes to eye protection. Did you know that dark glasses do not necessarily mean protection from the sun's harmful UV rays or ultraviolet radiation? Dr. Edgar U. Leuenberger, one of Asian Eye Institute's (AEI) glaucoma specialists, says that people wearing dark eyewear with no UV protection are more likely to have sunburned eyes than those who don't. He explains, "These people are lulled into thinking their eyewear protects them when, in fact, it is doing more harm than good. It is much better to wear a wide-brimmed hat or cap than an eyewear with no UV protection. At least with a hat, he or she has 50 percent protection from UV radiation."

For his part, Dr. Jesse Caguioa, AEI's low vision expert adds, "The reason for this is dark-tinted eyewear without UV coating simply reduces or cuts the glare of the visible light. It cannot cut UV because it is invisible; it is also stronger in high altitude places, like Baguio. That's why people should make it a point to have their glasses coated with UV protection. The good thing is that any eyewear can be made to block this harmful radiation, even clear eyeglasses and contact lenses."

So what happens if we don't heed this advice? Sunburned eyes called photokeratitis that could really be painful and could last for weeks; dry eyes irritation; skin cancer around the eye lids, which are non-healing ulcers around the eyes; solar retinopathy that can burn the retina and lead to a blind spot, and cataracts that can lead to blindness.

"But these are not the only eye problems that people experience during summer," says Dr. Leuenberger. "Because aside from swimming, hiking, camping, or tanning, people tend to play and do more work outside during summer, for example racket sports like badminton; basketball and volleyball; cleaning, house painting and renovation, doing woodwork, and other hobbies that use some kind of equipment. You can get your eyes injured from flying objects because of these activities."

Drs. Leuenberger and Caguioa advise us to follow the following tips so we can have a really fun-filled summer and avoid going to the hospital.

"If you are going out in the sun, make sure to wear UV-coated eyewear that can give you 100 percent protection from UV radiation and a wide-brimmed cap or hat. Make sure also that your eyewear wraps around your eyes because UV can reach your eyes from the top and sides of your eyewear. Those who have had lasik surgery should take care of the flap by not rubbing their eyes too much and swimming without goggles as the flap can loosen. Finally, the elderly should try to stay out of the sun as they are more prone to the damaging effects of UV," advises Dr. Leuenberger. For sports and other activities, Dr. Caguioa recommends wearing UV-coated safety goggles made from shatterproof polycarbonate lenses. "We should also have the UV protective coating of our old eyewear checked and re-coated if necessary since this coating deteriorates after a while.

For inquiries, call the Asian Eye Institute at 898-2020, e-mail eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com or log on to www.asianeyeinstitute.com.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of IT Equipments)

I. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

**Re-Bidding:**

| Name of Project | Description | Qty | Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Procurement of Laptop Computer | Supply and delivery of Laptop Computer for DND-Proper Offices | 34 | 2,380,000.00 |
| TOTAL | | | PhP 2,380,000.00 |

II. The schedule of activities are as follows:

| ACTIVITIES | VENUE | DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents | Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg., DND | May 22, 2006-June 5, 2006 | 9:00AM-5:00PM |
| Pre-Bid Conference | - | - | - |
| Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids | OASA Old Conference Room, DND Bldg. | June 05, 2006 | 9:30AM |
| Bid Evaluation | These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003 | | |
| Post-Qualification | | | |
| Issuance of Notice of Award | | | |

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (PhP 2,400.00) to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. 911-8118.

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least two (2) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VIII. The invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org., and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI - May 21 & 28, 2006)

## ProductFILES

### Passion in every cup of Gloria Jean's Coffees

"BECAUSE WE POUR our passion into your coffee," reads an inscription on a wall in a Gloria Jean's Coffees shop. But mind you, that doesn't just refer to Gloria Jean's passion for the taste, flavor or the way they process your most coveted brew. If you haven't noticed it yet, they've invented an amusing new art form when it comes to serving coffee. Now, a cup of latte is just as good a conversation piece as any there is. Not to mention, the drinking just got more enjoyable. Latte Art is another proof of the Australia-based coffee company's passion for anything that has to do with coffee. So when you order a cup of hot latte, take a moment or two to appreciate the little spectacle of curlicues of froth formed in varying shapes and designs before you enjoy it fully. Enjoy this newfound art form at all Gloria Jeans Coffees branches in Metro Manila and other soon-to-open outlets at the Mall of Asia, Iloilo, Bacolod, Subic, Ortigas, Davao and Cebu.

### Cooking Pleasure with YF360 Cooking Range

WITH YEARS OF UNparalleled experience in the appliance industry, Whirlpool has made a name for itself and is now considered an authority in the production of world-class home appliances. And with the development of the YF360 Cooking Range, things just got better. This 60-cm. 4 gas burner cooking range oven is the latest addition to Whirlpool's cooking line and is sure to make cooking a pleasant experience. Its enameled burner caps allow easy cleaning and help retain its luster while the Continuous Cleaning feature makes tidying up after preparing a meal a breeze. The Warming Drawer keeps the food safe and warm until serving time, and the stylish Easy View Window with Oven Light allows you to check up on your cooking progress in a snap without having to compensate the cooking temperature by having to open the oven door. Safety is also of outmost concern with its Tempered Glass Lid, Temperature Oven Control and Safety Lock Knobs. The YF360 Cooking Range truly is a useful partner in preparing delectable and mouth-watering dishes. If interested, please visit your nearest Whirlpool showroom or call 732-7370 for details.

### A new way to be refreshed

FROM UNIVERSAL Robina Corp (URC), comes Rush Fitness Water, a non-carbonated drink that is best for people who live active and dynamic lives. In today's fast-paced world, a well-rounded lifestyle requires maximum energy. Created by the makers of C2 Green Tea, Rush Fitness Water is highly recommended for busy and on-the-go individuals who want to recharge and revitalize their bodies. Compared to Rush Fitness Water, plain water contains few essential minerals while sports drinks have excessive amounts of salts, which is more suitable for people who do heavy exercise. That's why Rush Fitness Water is ideal for people just going through their daily activities. Aside from quenching thirst, Rush Fitness Water is more easily absorbed by the body and is lighter than other sports drinks. With more electrolytes than water and less salt than sports drinks, Rush Fitness Water is just right for day-to-day fitness since it keeps the body's fluid in perfect balance by replenishing the optimum amounts of electrolytes lost on a busy day. So get refreshed, recharged and revitalized with the delightful grapefruit flavor of Rush Fitness Water, now available in convenient 500mL PET bottle in groceries and supermarkets nationwide.

**GSK JOINS PETITION FOR GLOBAL PLAN TO STOP TB**

Daisy Cembrano (left), GlaxoSmithKline vice president for Value Health poses with Dr. Isagani Rodriguez, board member of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians during the launching of the Global Plan to Stop TB held recently at Philippine International Convention Center in Manila. Cembrano represented GSK's Value Health in signing a petition to pledge support to stop the spread of tuberculosis worldwide via its rifampicin brand. GSK's Value Health, originally launched in 2004, is the only program by a multinational pharmaceutical company in the Philippines that offers significant price reduction for some of its original branded medicines that are known for quality, efficacy, safety and affordability. As the first global pharmaceutical company to heed the government's call for lower-priced but quality medicines for Filipinos, Value Health products are made available with price reductions of up to 34% for patients, placing it among the most competitively priced medicines in the market.

**ANVIL AWARD FOR MFI**

Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI) won the Anvil Award for Excellence in the category of public affairs and communication for the recruitment of scholars for the Industrial Technician Program of MFI, given recently during the 41st awards night of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines held at the Manila Hotel. Photo shows MFI president, Col. Alex T. Escaño, who received the award in the presence of (from left): Amalia 'Foy' Dablo, acting head of AAS-VP Department, MFI; Anvil award chair Vicente del Fierro Jr, Escaño, former Senator Heherson Alvarez, Doreen Tolentino, head, Student Services Department, MFI and Raquel Rayel, program assistant, MFI.

# pH Care gives free refresher course to midwives nationwide

THE COUNTRY'S NUMBER ONE intimate feminine wash is conducting a free refresher course for midwives in different areas nationwide. The activity mainly concentrates on the topic of pregnancy and the role of midwives in this very delicate stage of womanhood. It is centered on the Pre-Natal and Post Natal Care, discussing the different ways of preventing miscarriage, possible infections and the proper procedures for safe child delivery and of course the proper feminine hygiene during pregnancy.

The midwives did not only get a refresher course, pH Care also gave them an afternoon of fun, excitement and tons of prizes. They had a great time showing off their talents in singing and dancing as they competed with each other in the "Fresh New Day" challenge. They also received numerous samples for their patients in their respective areas.

The event was initially done in the Visayas and Mindanao areas and it will also be conducted in the different areas nationwide throughout the year.

Apart from this, the very much successful free symposium on proper feminine hygiene - "Let's Talk Girl" is continuing to empower more and more women nationwide by providing them the gift of knowledge on how to properly take care of themselves.

To date, "Let's Talk Girl" is on it's third year and has covered almost 300 schools, more than 150 barangays and more than 100 industries nationwide. 2006 activity kicked-off in Visayas, covering the areas of Bohol, Dumaguete and Tacloban. Mindanao area started off with Zamboanga and soon, the city of Davao, and Iligan will be visited.

The pool of medical experts who helped in conducting the activity comprises Dra. Elva Auza, Dra. Jennifer Emperado, Dra. Nimfa Nuevas and Dra. Helen Grace Roasa. They shared more than their time and knowledge. They even extended their commitment by addressing concerns about the topic and conducted free medical consultation.

pH Care is keen on empowering and reaching more and more Filipino women nationwide in the different sectors; especially those in the rural areas. This is their own commitment of helping Filipinos have proper understanding on health issues concerning feminine care.

This nationwide event is being staged, handled and implemented by Ad Staunch Communication Network. For inquiries call (02)550-1732/(02)551-8533 or send email at events@compass.com.ph.

# OBITUARIES

*"Mary, for you..."*

Our Dearly Beloved

**Bernard Joseph "Bernie" Fernandez Hosaka, M.D.**

*returned to the home of our Loving Father at the age of 44.*

His son **Miguel**, parents **Dr. Orlino T. & Betty Hosaka**, brothers and sisters-in-law **Jojo & Cidette, Harry & Bambi, Brian & Tricia**, sister **Mae-Mae**, nephews and nieces **Nicka, Niki, Enrique, Danica, Noah, Bea, Teo, Pio & Ani**, other relatives and friends give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His cremains will be at the **Bulwagang Claret Annex, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish,** Mahinhin cor. Mayumi Sts., UP Village, Q.C., starting May 22, 2006 from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight.

Interment will be at the **La Loma Catholic Cemetery** on Thursday, May 25, 2006, after the 8:30 a.m. mass at **St. Stanislaus Kostka Chapel** (High School Chapel), Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Hts., Q.C.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Bernie to **Tulong Dunong Foundation** or to **The Ateneo Annual Fund, Tuition Aid** will be greatly appreciated.

Lovingly Remembered
on his 5th Death Anniversary

**JOSE MANUEL VILLANUEVA**

*October 15, 1953 - May 21, 2001*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Mt. Carmel Church, New Mla., Q.C.** | 7:15 AM<br>& 12:15 PM |
| **Carmel of St. Therese, Gilmore, Q.C.** | 6:30 AM |
| **Immaculate Conception, Cubao, Q.C.** | 6:00 AM |
| **Christ the King, Q.C** | 6:00 AM |
| **Makati Medical Center, Makati** | 7:30 AM |
| **St. Martin of Tours, Brentwood,** Los Angeles, CA | 5:30 PM |
| **St. Martin of Tours, Sunnyvale, CA** | 12:00 PM |
| **St. Joseph, Mountain View, CA (May 20)** | 8:00 AM |

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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**OTHER JOB OPENINGS:**

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Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

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Block 44, Northgate
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## Assistant Division Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Financial planning and management
- Assortment planning
- Business planning
- Develop and lead Merchandising Team

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, over 30 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 5 years experience in Retail Business
- Excellent Financial Planning and Management skills
- Possess analytical skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

## Merchandise Manager

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Develop and plan Merchandise Assortments
- Drive Sales and Gross Margin
- Manage Monthly OTB (Open-to-Buy)
- Manage and develop suppliers
- Develop Advertising and Sales Promotion Plans
- Implement and Monitor Visual Merchandising Standards

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- 4-5 years Retail Merchandising, Store Operations or Brand Management experience
- Experience in planning, forecasting, and allocation
- Computer literate

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday,
9:00 am - 4:00 pm at:

**SM MART, INC.**
**SM Corporate Office, Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard,**
**SM Central Business Park,**
**Bay City, Pasay City**
**or**
**Visit our website : www.sm-shoemart.com**
**E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com**

*(Please bring comprehensive resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/SSS Employment History printout, photocopy and original Transcript of Records and Diploma)*

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## Selling Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

- male/female; not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity
- ability to carry out prompt and efficient customer service

***Branch Location: Makati, Bicutan, and Sucat***

## Counter & Checking Manager / Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible in cashiering operations, cash transactions and overall supervision of personnel in the department.

- female; not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year Business course
- with 1 to 2 years experience in bank operations or counter-cashier functions and familiar with credit card transactions

***Branch Location: Makati, Bicutan, and Sucat***

## Customer Service Assistant

- female; not over 25 years old
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Computer Science or any 4-year business course
- personable, fast learner and flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours.

***Branch Location: Metro Manila Branches***

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday,
9:00 am - 4:00 pm at:

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**Bay City, Pasay City**
**or**
**www.sm-shoemart.com**
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*(Please bring comprehensive resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/SSS Employment History printout, photocopy and original Transcript of Records and Diploma)*

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**Makati City 1252**
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| Esteban corner Dela Rosa Streets | Fax. +63 2 813-2131 |
| Legaspi Village, Makati City | |

or alternatively by e-mail to: philippines.web@teekay.com

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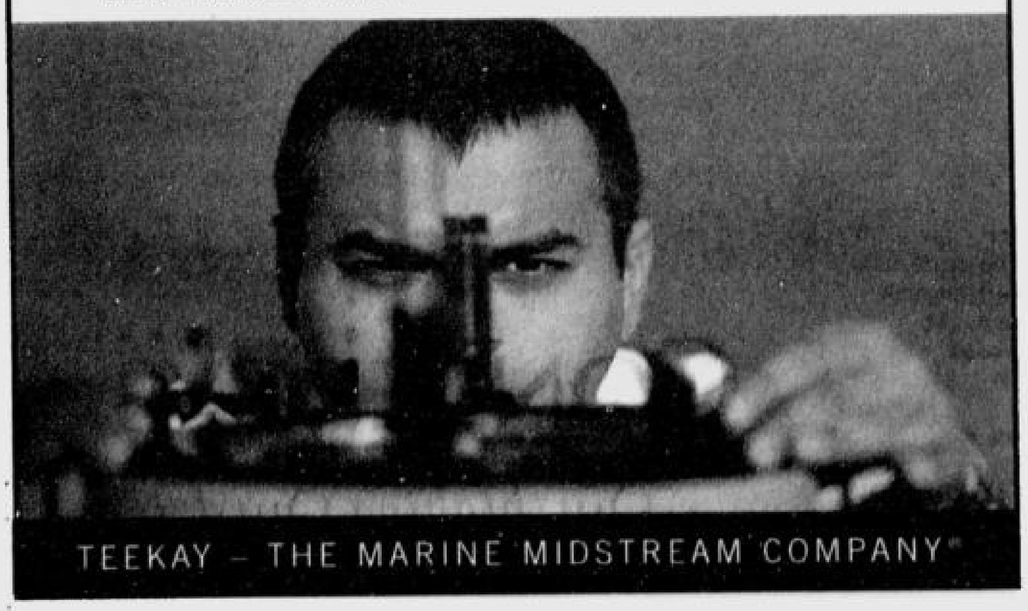
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Our client is an American multinational semiconductor company based in Gateway Business Park, Gen. Trias Cavite has the following job opportunities:

### Failure Analysis Engineer

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### Sr. Failure Analysis Engineer

- Graduate of BS ECE, EE, Physics or Materials Eng'g
- Master's Degree holder in electronics is an advantage.
- At least 5 years work experience in semiconductor test manufacturing facility.
- Familiar with FA processes, techniques, and methods.
- Knowledgeable in data analysis and reporting.

### Equipment Engineer

- Graduate of BS ECE, EE, ME, or CoE
- At least 1 year experience in Strip Test as Equipment Engineer.
- Knowledgeable on MCT Tapestry handlers.
- Familiar with FMEA.
- Knowledge on test methods is a definite advantage.

### Sr. Test Development Engineer

- Graduate of Business Electronics & Communications / Electrical Engineering
- MS units in related engineering field is an advantage.
- At least 5 years experience in a semiconductor manufacturing environment.
- Proficient in die level circuit analysis, and instrumentation.

### Manufacturing Test Engineering Manager

- Graduate of BS in EE, ECE, CoE, or equivalent
- At least 7 years experience in test/product engineering in the semiconductor industry.
- At least 5 years experience in Platform conversions, direct product releases, and new equipment / process evaluation and qualification.
- At least 2 years leadership experience.

### Facilities Engineer

- Graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering
- At least 2 years experience in facilities/plant engineering.
- Familiar with operation and maintenance of facilities equipment.
- Proficiency in PLC programming is an advantage.

### Mfg. Production Supervisors

- College Graduate
- At least 2 years work experience in a manufacturing environment.

### Quality Engineer (as Sr. Failure Analysis Engineer for WW MMPD)

- Graduate of BS ECE, EE, Physics, or Materials Engineering
- At least 2 years work experience in semiconductor test manufacturing facility.
- Familiar with FA processes, techniques, and methods.
- Knowledgeable in data analysis and reporting.

**Please send your resumés to alonette@globelines.com.ph and address it to Tanya Honrado or Pinky Castillo.**
**Our contact nos. are 7190584/7194053/5342919**

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## NOW HIRING

### FACULTY

- With field of specialization in CS/IT, Mathematics Social Sciences
- Preferably with Masters Degree
- Teaching Experience is an advantage

### SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

- Bachelor's Degree in Library Science
- Preferably with PRC license .

### MARKETING STAFF

- Marketing graduate or any related courses
- Preferably with customer service experience
- Computer literate with good oral and written communication skills

### RECEPTIONIST

- Preferably with customer service experience
- With good oral communication skills

### COMPUTER OPERATOR

- Computer Technical graduate or any related course
- Preferably with experience in PC Troubleshooting

### CELLPHONE TECHNICIAN

*Applicants may email their resumé and credentials with recent 2x2 and contact numbers to:*

**jendavid313@yahoo.com.ph**

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## 3 AUDITORS

**Job Description (brief)**

*Qualifications:*

1. Male
2. Below 30
3. Candidate must possess a BS in Accounting
4. Working experience in general accounting and internal/external audit
5. Good interpersonal skills and able to communicate and interact with all levels of staff
6. Willing to travel (occasionally)

Just email your resumé at
**hrd_emission@yahoo.com**

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## IMMIGRATE TO CANADA

**FREE SEMINARS-Saturdays @10am & Wednesdays @3pm-ONLY INVESTORS & BUSINESS PROGRAMS ON THE FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL LEVEL - PRIORITY PROCESSING-PROVINCIAL NOMINEES -6mos-1yr; NOVA SCOTIA BUSS-6mos; SPOUSES, PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS, SKILLED WORKERS, ENTREPRENEURS, SELF-EMPLOYED & INVESTORS**

Standard Immigration Services Inc. - Suite 701, 7th flr. Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig. Tel (632)631-4983: Telefax (632)638-4774 Cel. 63917-8188180: Email: standardphilippines@yahoo.com
www.standardimmigration.com

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## PAYROLL PROCESSORS WANTED

- 2-year experience in various payroll-related functions with emphasis on processing and audit
- must be able to work long hours when required
- must be keen on details & definite on decisions
- must exude a positive and healthy work attitude
- must possess good communication skills

Email resume to payrolloutsourcing@gmail.com

## Call Center Specialists

We urgently need agents and team captains to assume roles in Customer Service, Technical Support, Outbound Sales and Inbound Sales.

Full-time and Part-time positions available.

Visit any of our recruiment hubs or email recruitment@ambergrissolutions.com.

31st Floor Discovery Center
ADB Avenue, Pasig City
(across Podium)

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Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig City

Attractive benefits, innovative perks and a fun working environment await.

**Careers**

**ambergris solutions**

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# CCF PHILIPPINES

### An International NGO Working for the Well-Being of Children

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is an international non-profit, non political and non-sectarian child development agency that operates in over 30 countries. It has been working in the Philippines for over thirty years now implementing programs in the areas of basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, micro-enterprise development and emergency programs. In partnership with 49 community-based organizations, CCF Philippines assists more than 216,000 children and their families.

It is currently seeking development professionals to assume on the following positions:

**Two (2) Sponsor Relations Officers** – Qualification Requirements:

- ✓ University Degree preferably in Office Administration or Management, Communication Arts or related field
- ✓ At least 2 years relevant experience; exposure to child sponsorship processes

**One (1) Sponsor Relations Monitor**- Qualification Requirements:

- ✓ University Degree preferably in Development Management, Communication Arts, behavioral Science or related field.
- ✓ At least 4 years relevant experience; exposure to child sponsorship processes

Applicant for both positions will need to possess:

- ✓ Good grasp of national and international issues on children
- ✓ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Possess interpersonal and cross-cultural skills
- ✓ Can work effectively for long hours and under pressure with minimal supervision

The above positions' overall responsibilities are expediting goals of the Sponsor Relations Department through capacity building, SR planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and maintain effective sponsor-sponsored child relations.

**One (1) Executive Assistant** - Responsible in providing high level administrative support to the National Director; assists in preparing management reports and handle information requests. S/he also coordinates human resources activities in the areas of recruitment, compensation and benefits administration, employee relations, training and development, performance management and HR policy formulation and implementation.

The successful candidate must have the following qualifications:

-University Degree in Management, Psychology or any related course
-At least four years experience as a development professional with strong exposure/involvement in human resources management and administration work
-Demonstrated high level of interpersonal and cross-cultural skills
-Can work with minimal supervision and perform effectively under pressure
-Excellent oral and written communication skills
-Good grasp of children's issues at national and global levels a distinct advantage

Interested applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlined here together with detailed Curriculum Vitae with 3 references & contact details to ccftpo@ccfphilippines.org.ph not later than June 02, 2006. Application may be posted to CCF Philippines Office, 8th Floor Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

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10c per minute IDD Top 10

## WE NEED GOOD PEOPLE!

**TREASURY SUPERVISOR**

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accountancy, Banking or its equivalent
- Preferably with five (5) years of experience in Banking/Financial Services or its equivalent
- Audit experience and handling collection validation an advantage
- Adaptable, able to multi-task and cope with varying workload
- With strong communications skills, a proactive attitude and ability to understand and resolve issues quickly and efficiently

**GENERAL ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR**

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accountancy, Banking or its equivalent
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- With a minimum of four (4) years of general accounting experience and two (2) years of supervision or line management experience
- Proficient in cash and accounts receivable reconciliation
- Practical experience of SAP and Excel
- Ability to work independently; methodical in approach with an eye for detail and accuracy
- Above-average interpersonal and communication skills, and demonstrated analytical and problem solving capabilities

**ACTIVATION OFFICER**

- Graduate of Business Management, Finance, Accountancy, Banking or Industrial Engineering
- A minimum of two (2) years of experience in Telco activation or retail loans processing in a credit card or telecommunications company an advantage
- Strong analytical skills and ability to rapidly assimilate complex information
- Highly effective communication and influencing skills
- A team player who is highly customer-oriented, with a proactive/can-do attitude

**BUSINESS CENTER OFFICER**

- Graduate of Business Management, Marketing, Finance or any related course
- With at least three (3) years of work experience in customer service, sales or retail operations
- Preferably with Marketing experience
- Background in telecommunications industry an advantage
- Must have undisputed integrity and strong interpersonal and leadership skills
- Results-oriented and commitment-driven; a creative, analytical and strategic thinker
- With strong sense of teamwork, cooperation, and continuous improvement

**CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALIST**

- College graduate; experience in customer service, sales or retail operations an advantage
- With strong communication skills, sense of ethics and integrity
- Must be results-oriented and commitment-driven; flexible and adaptable, service-oriented, proactive and dependable.

**FULFILLMENT SPECIALIST**

- Graduate of Business Administration or Marketing
- Experience in a customer service-oriented industry or background in telecommunications preferred
- Keen customer sensibility
- Above-average communication skills
- Ability to deliver work on time and with accuracy
- A proactive team player

If interested, please submit your application letter together with your updated curriculum vitae and a copy of your transcript of records on or before May 30, 2006. Address your application to:

**The HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION**
**11/F Galleria Corporate Center**
**EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue**
**1110 Quezon City Philippines**

Or via email to:
**hrd.employment@digitel.ph**

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**Bank of America Higher Standards**

*Is in need of :*

## ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER (1)

- Certified Public Accountant with at least two to three (2 to 3) years banking, audit or industry experience in Management, Regulatory, Statutory and Head Office reporting.
- Extensive knowledge in Tax Management
- Knowledgeable in local regulatory and local accounting standards
- Substantial experience in the analysis of Financial Statements

Interested applicants must send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo to:

**Bank of America N.A.**
**27/f Philamlife Tower**
**8767 Paseo de Roxas**
**Makati City 1257**

**Attention: Human Resources Department**

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## BEST OPTION
### Management Consultants, Inc.

*"We create sales and logistics excellence globally"*

**BEST OPTION MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS INC.**, a recognized member of the *Institute of Management Consultants*, is a management consultancy firm commited to helping our clients thrive in the dynamic global marketplace through ***sales and logistics excellence***.

### *We URGENTLY NEED*
### SALES CONSULTANTS to work for our client.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduates of top universities; Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking; Must possess excellent oral & written communication skills both in English and Filipino; Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic & flexible environment.
1 year sales experience is an advantage
Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply

Send your *Resumé* to Best Option Office at
2/F Race Bldg. 608 Sierra Madre St. Mandaluyong City
or call 7171396*5328462 and look for Ms. Sharene D. Baylon
You can email it to: sdbaylon@gmail.com

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**Singa Ship Management Phils., Inc.**

*Urgently Needs:*

## SR CHEFS / CHEF DE PARTIES

**(Pastry Chefs, Head Butchers, Hot / Cold Galley Chefs)**

- With good foundation in Culinary Arts
- With 5-star cruise ship/hotel or fine-dining restaurant experience
- At least three years working as a CDP
- Not more than 46 years old

**No Placement or Deployment Fees!!!**
**Principal Interview on May 29 and 30, 2006**

*Visit us ASAP at:*
**Recruitment Department, Singa Ship Mgt. Phil., Inc.**
**3rd Flr. FSE Bldg., 3671-73 Bautista St., Palanan, Makati**
**8316759; 5518771; Fax – 8321636**
*Or email to:* **appy@singaship.ph**

## FAST LOGISTICS

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*Fast Logistics is a leading provider of value-adding supply chain solutions.*

### We invite top caliber professionals to be part of FAST LOGISTICS.

**CORPORATE CLAIMS/LEGAL MANAGER**
**(for Metro Manila)**
- Lawyer
- Knowledgeable in Marine Cargo Insurance and Labor Laws
- With excellent written and communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Independent, asserive, and highly-motivated

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**
**(for Metro Manila)**
- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- With MBA degree and/or units is an advantage
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- With experience in logistics business/industry
- Highly analytical, organized and systematic

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST**
**(for Cagayan de Oro)**
- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing and related fields
- At least 1 year job related experience
- In-depth knowledge in Sales & Marketing Techniques
- Knowledgeable in Logistics business/industry
- Willing to travel extensively around Mindanao (familiarity with Mindanao Area is an advantage)
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer-literate

**TRADE AND MARKETING ACCOUNT SPECIALIST**
**(for Tagbilaran)**
- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- With experience in Sales & Distribution is an advantage
- With at least 1 year Supervisory Experience
- Can work well under pressure
- Goal & Customer-oriented

**SECTION HEAD for SALES SUPPORT**
**(for Metro Manila)**
- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- With experience in handling customer service, sales and telemarketing
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Customer oriented
- With entrepreneurial skills

**BRANCH MANAGER**
**(for Cebu)**
- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Business or Marketing
- With above-average to high scholastic record
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Hardworking, aggressive, assertive, organized, and systematic
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Highly analytical
- Computer-literate
- With experience in logistics business and proven track record of performance
- With at least 3 years of Managerial Experience

**CLAIMS SPECIALIST**
**(for Manila)**
- Preferably a Graduate of Bachelor Science in Industrial Engineering or Accountancy
- Proficient in both oral and written communication
- Minimum of (1) year job related experience
- Highly analytical and must be very organized and systematic

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**
**(for Bacolod and Metro Manila)**
- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer-literate
- Customer and result oriented

**SALES EXECUTIVE**
**(Metro Manila)**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering
- Preferably Chinese Speaking
- At least 1 year job related experience
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Customer oriented

**SALES SUPPORT STAFF**
**(for Manila)**
- Graduate of any 4-year business related course
- Proficient in both oral and written communication
- Minimum of (1) year job related experience
- Customer oriented

**HR STAFF**
**(for Cebu, Cagayan, Bacolod, Tagbilaran, Zamboanga, and Davao)**
- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Knowledgeable on labor laws, government regulations and compliance requirements
- Excellent in oral and written communication
- With excellent interpersonal skills

Please send your comprehensive Resume and Application Letter to: **Human Resources Department - FastCargo Logistics Corporation, 2nd Floor, Mitsubishi Bldg, Highway, Mandaue City, Cebu, Philippines or email us at: dmabalia@fastgroup.biz**
**You can visit our website: www.fastgroup.biz**

**LOGISTICS ENGINEER**
**(for Cagayan de Oro and Cebu)**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering or Accountancy
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Willing to travel
- Computer-literate
- Goal-oriented and can work well under pressure

**FINANCE MANAGER**
**(for Metro Manila)**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant
- With above average to high scholastic record
- Minimum of 2 years job related experience
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer literate

**BRANCH ACCOUNTANT**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Certified Public Accountant
- With above-average to high scholastic record
- Minimum of 1 year job related experience
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer-literate

**INTERNAL AUDITOR**
**(for Cebu)**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Preferably Certified Public Accountant
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer-literate

**BOOKKEEPER**
**(for Cebu)**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Preferably Certified Public Accountant
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer-literate

**ACCOUNTING STAFF**
**(for Manila and Cebu)**
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- Preferably Certified Public Accountant
- Minimum of 1 year job-related experience
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Computer-literate

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## PHILIPPINE AIRPORT AND GROUND SERVICES GLOBEGROUND, INC.

an expanding Ground Handling firm engaged in the Airline Business Industry has excellent career prospects for the following positions:

### CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS/CARGO AGENTS

(Passenger Services/Cargo Services)
- Male/Female 20 to 25 yrs. Old
- At least 5'3" in height for female, 5'7" for male
- College Graduate
- Service oriented and willing to learn new skills
- Good moral character and presentable in appearance
- Good command of English both oral and written
- Smart and Enthusiastic
- With high sense of responsibility
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends and holidays

### OPERATIONS AGENT

- Male, 20 – 25 yrs. old
- College graduate, presentable appearance
- Good knowledge in geography
- Computer Literate
- Service oriented
- Good command of English both oral and written
- Good mathematical understanding
- With high sense of responsibility
- Has the ability to deal with people
- Willing to work on night schedule, weekends & holidays
- Maintain good performance under stress

### FLIGHT DISPATCHER

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate preferably of BS Aeronautical/Aerospace Engineering Course
- ATO Licensed or its FAA equivalent
- Computer Literate
- Good command of English both oral and written
- Good mathematical understanding
- With high sense of responsibility
- Service oriented
- Has the ability to deal with people
- Willing to work on night schedule, weekends & holidays
- Maintain good performance under stress

### EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- At least 3 years driving experience
- With professional drivers license
- In good physical condition, good eyesight
- Willing to work on shift schedule weekends & holidays
- Good moral character with high sense of responsibility
- With experience in heavy equipment is an advantage

*Please send your resume with contact telephone number and ID picture at:*

**P.O. BOX 7764**
**Domestic Airport Post Office**
**Domestic Rd. Pasay City**
or email ad: **e_calaminos@globeground.com.ph**

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# Think what's possible.

*Are you looking to work in a global growth company where you can make a real difference? With more than 82,000 associates around the globe in our affiliates in more than 140 countries, we share a vision of a better today and tomorrow for patients - a vision that drives our growth and success. Our greatest job satisfaction is knowing that we improve lives, we extend lives, and we save lives - and we do it with increasing precision and efficiency through breakthrough science and innovation.*

**We are on the look out for high potential individuals who possess the drive & ambition to fast track their career in Sales. Challenging career opportunities & an attractive compensation package await successful candidates!**

## Medical Representative (Job Code: MR)

The successful candidates will be responsible for the effective promotion of assigned products to targeted physicians. This includes an effective and efficient implementation of programs and strategies directed towards the achievement of sales growth and profitability.

**Qualifications:**
- Degree in any four year course, preferably in Management, Marketing or in Life Sciences
- With at least 1 year experience in sales gained from a multinational pharma company
- Willing to travel and be relocated to provincial territories. (Batangas, Lower Cagayan Valley)
- Ideal candidates must possess above average communication skills, must be highly adaptable to a dynamic & fast paced environment, highly customer oriented and driven to achieve targets.

Interesred applicants may send their resumes to 2/f Asian Reinsurance Bldg. Gamboa cor. Salcedo Sts. Legaspi Village Makati, or email to **novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com**

NOVARTIS

www.novartis.com

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## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
**(Direct Employment)**

**A new company for consumer lines is looking for:**
- **NATIONAL SALES MANAGER**
- **REGIONAL SALES MANAGER**
- **AREA SALES MANAGER**
- **KEY ACCOUNT SPECIALIST**

*(Should have experience in sales of consumer products. Not more than 40 yrs. old)*

**FOR A HOTEL**
- **ASST. MANAGER**
- **HR RELATIONS OFFICER**
- **RECRUITMENT SUPERVISOR**
- **ACCOUNTING OFFICER**
- **AUDIT OFFICER**
- **INTERIOR DESIGNER**

*(Not more than 35 years old, with experience in related field.)*

**FOR A CALL CENTER**
- **CALL CENTER AGENT**

*excellent communication skills w/ experience in sales.*

*Please apply in person, bring resumé or email*

MANOS OUTSOURCING SPECIALIST
Unit E Rizalina 2 Bldg., Quezon Ave.,
Quezon City near Census (EDSA) and
ISUZU & Hi-Top
E-mail: manos@mozcom.com
Tel. No. 411-2630 / 929-8328 / 926-9857

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An upstart law firm based in Makati

is in need of a

## NEW LAWYER

Please send curriculum vitaé and transcript of records to:

P.O. Box 354
U.P. Post Office
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

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## DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for a **DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST** responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of activities in the area of energy and environment. The activities include reforming policies to restructure the energy sector and expand the use of cleaner-burning fuels for electricity generation and transportation, strengthening the capability of key energy sector institutions and raising public awareness to build the political will to carry out policy reforms. The successful candidate will be the Team Leader for the Energy Program involved in the conception, design, negotiation and implementation of an economically and politically important program that is complex and high profile. He/She will serve as a liaison with senior officials of national/local government, private sectors, NGOs and other donors. The candidate must have the following qualifications:

☐ Master's degree in a field relevant to the energy, environment or transportation sector or in business administration, management or other related field
☐ Minimum of five years of progressive professional experience,in development assistance or related work in reforming policies and building institutional capability in the energy or transportation sectors.
☐ Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of energy and transportation sector policies and issues.
☐ Excellent interpersonal skills, team player, ability to develop and maintain strong work relations with broad range of development partners and program stakeholders.
☐ Excellent command of English language, both written and spoken
☐ Excellent computer skills and proven ability to prepare professional quality reports and presentations

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than May 26, 2006 to:

**Human Resources Division**
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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**IFC**
**International Finance Corporation**
World Bank Group

**The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established a technical assistance program for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Philippines (PEP Philippines).**

**PEP Philippines is currently seeking , one each for its Manila and Davao Offices,**

## TWO (2) FINANCE ASSISTANTS

The Finance Assistant will be responsible for efficiently reviewing and processing of all transactions in accordance with IFC policies and procedures; assisting in the preparation of budget and regular financial reports; assisting in servicing all procurement requirements following the Corporation's set of policies and guidelines; and performing other ad hoc functions relating to finance and administration. The successful candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- A College degree in Accounting, Finance or Business
- Proven practical skills in GL, AP/AR journal entries, account reconciliations gained from at least two years of relevant experience in a multinational corporate setting
- Sound knowledge and understanding of accounting concepts and principles; familiarity with a set of formal corporate policies and guidelines
- Working knowledge of SAP or other ERP systems. Microsoft office, Internet, Lotus Notes, Excel, and Access applications
- Strong analytical and mathematical skills
- Excellent communication skills, with ability to clearly and concisely convey necessary information, explain reasoning and support conclusions using data and facts.
- Can work well under pressure with minimal supervision; team player
- CPA preferred.

Candidates are invited to send resumes to contactuspepp@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on May 26, 2006. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

**Only short-listed candidates will be notified.**

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myAyala
www.myAyala.com

**Job Openings at myAyala**

**myAyala.com, Inc.**, a member of the **Ayala Group of Companies**, is the first and largest online Filipino Mall in the country that caters to a global community. myAyala was established to pursue various opportunities in e-commerce, among them online shopping, wireless applications, and software development.

We are looking for highly competent individuals who can meet the requirements of our network and handle the responsibilities for our business divisions.

### Technical Support Engineers

- Bachelor's Degree preferred (Engineering, preferably ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS)
- 1-3 years experience in Telephony/IT systems (Call Center preferred)
- good communication skills, adaptable, versatile, quick learner, disciplined, familiar with documentation of support activities
- strong technical background (networking, telephony & telecommunications, call center IT, VOIP, IVR, TPV, voice & data infrastructure, MS Office and Visio)
- experience with predictive dialer systems, IT/Telephony system analysis and design, programming (ASP, VB), database (FoxPro, SQL) a definite plus
- willing to work night shifts, or variable depending on client need; willing to travel to and from HO and client site for installations or on-call support
- must be able to translate business needs of clients into technical recommendations, using IT/ Telephony network design and equipment
- good at problem-solving, trouble-shooting, analysis and proposing solutions on various support issues, assisting customers and prospective clients with reasonably good customer relationship skills

### Online Customer Relations and Operations Coordinator

- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- must have excellent written and verbal communication skills as well as interpersonal skills
- experiential background in e-commerce procedures and principles
- must be able to handle all online customer concerns and queries
- can manage all channels of customer communication (phone, e-mail, voice mail, comments page)
- willing to work long hours

Highly competent and creative applicants who love to work with young, dynamic individuals in agile responsive teams, drink lots of coffee and coke, yet hate office uniforms and paying for parking tickets are preferred.

### Digital Graphic Designer

- Bachelor's degree in any field (Fine Arts and Advertising preferred)
- must be experienced in designing web pages
- strong experiential background in conceptualizing lay-outs and innovative designs for print advertisements, brochures, banners and marketing materials
- highly motivated and self-directed
- must be able to work well independently as well as with a team
- creativity and ability to meet deadlines required

For **Technical Support Engineers**, kindly send your resumés to baylon.patrick@myayala.com and tosoc.gigi@myayala.com or fax to 752-5279 or 813-2414 and address to Mr. Patrick L. Baylon, Director **for Infrastructure and Services for myAyala CCSS; and Ms. Geraldine A. Tosoc, HR & Administration Specialist, myAyala.com, Inc.**

For **Online Customer Relations and Operations Coordinator**, kindly send your resumes to pantoja.oda@myayala.com or fax to abovementioned numbers and address to **Ms. Oda C. Pantoja, Business Development Officer for myAyala SureSeats.**

For **Digital Graphic Designer**, kindly send your resumés to tosoc.gigi@myayala.com or fax to abovementioned contact details of **Ms. Geraldine A. Tosoc.**

Kindly indicate the position you are applying for in the subject heading, and please include employment references.

The British Embassy Manila is currently seeking to fill the following vacancy

## PROJECT MANAGER (GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND) ENGAGING WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD – 1 year contract

This position is available from 14 June 2006 – 13 June 2007.

Background
To maximise the impact of the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) Programme in the Philippines by helping develop, manage and evaluate effective GOF projects.

Job Description
The vacancy in the British Embassy's Political, Press & Public Affairs section is for a Project Manager (GOF) at LE II Level. Primary responsibilities include:

- Developing and maintaining contacts with prospective project partners and stakeholders
- Assisting in drawing up of project proposals by researching sources of facilities and experts, carrying out cost comparisons, conducting risk assessments and investigating other donor activity.
- Carrying out administrative tasks linked to projects, such as making travel and accommodation bookings, meeting and briefing partners, experts and stakeholders and providing administrative assistance to visitors
- Helping to manage projecting funding, submitting draft spend forecasts, monitoring actual spending and helping to prepare post-project financial reports.
- Helping to monitor projects by visiting selected events on site and gathering feedback from participants, partners and other stakeholders.
- Contributing to evaluations of project work by chasing up end-of-project reports, gathering feedback from beneficiaries and partners and checking any physical output.
- Putting in place plan of action, and network of contacts, to help sustain long-term programme of work.

Monthly salary for this position is PHP39,122 with annual bonuses and medical package.

Deadline
Deadline for submission is 31 May 2006. Start date for employment is 14 June 2006.

Core Competence and Requirements
- Manage time well, organise and prioritise workload
- Extensive work experience managing projects
- Thorough knowledge of Mindanao
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Filipino/Tagalog may be an advantage, but not essential
- Good all round educational background
- Outgoing personality
- Excellent IT skills and experience
- Able to take instructions, and at all times work effectively, productively and, at times, unsupervised
- Attend Project Launches/visits to all regions of the Philippines

How to apply
To apply please submit, in an A4 sized envelope,
a copy of your CV (maximum 2 pages), 1 passport size photograph
and a hand-written letter explaining your suitability for this position to:

HR Manager (Project Manager (GOF))
British Embassy
17/F LV Locsin Building
6752 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226
Metro Manila
Philippines

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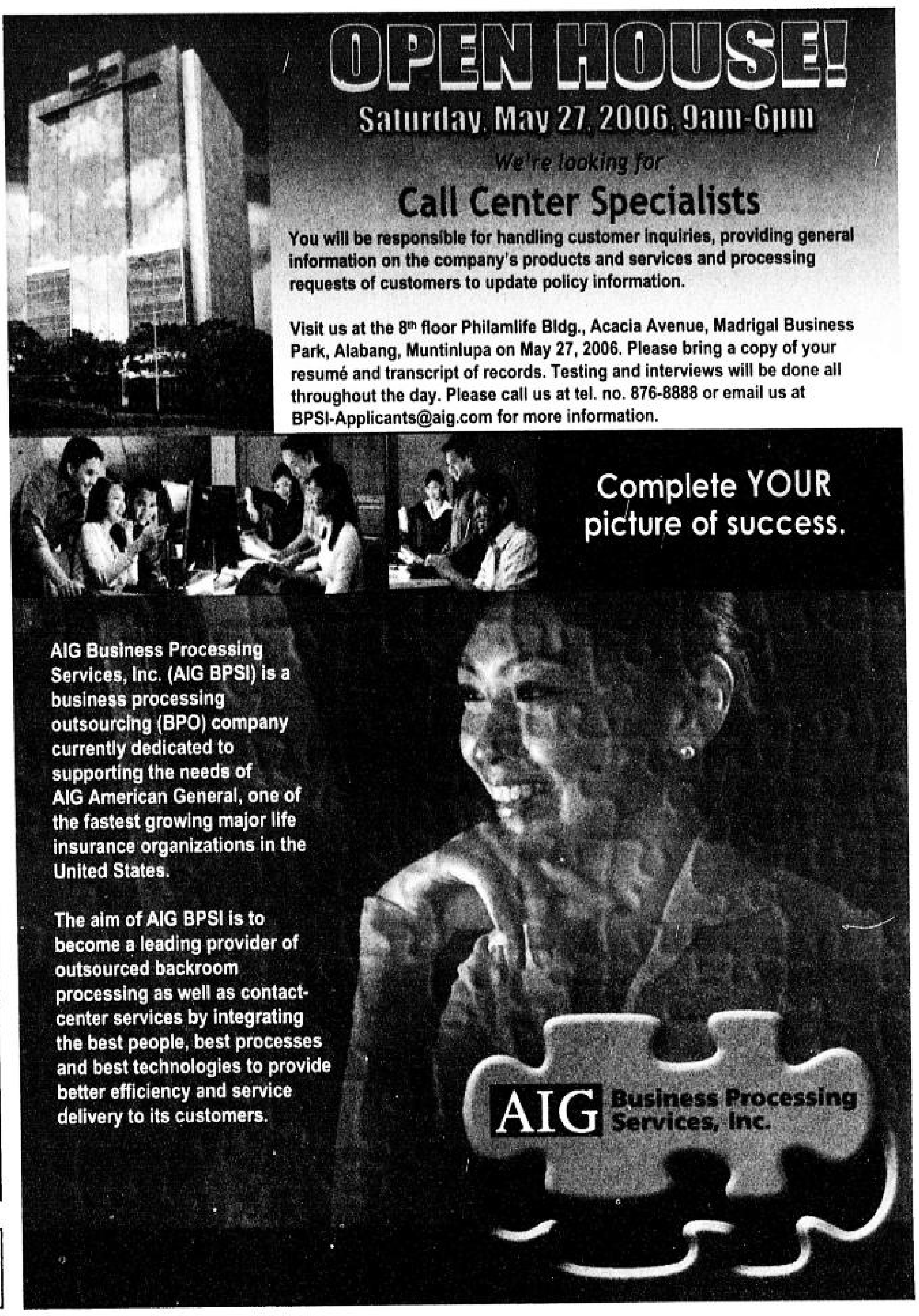

# OPEN HOUSE!

**Saturday, May 27, 2006, 9am-6pm**

*We're looking for*

## Call Center Specialists

**You will be responsible for handling customer inquiries, providing general information on the company's products and services and processing requests of customers to update policy information.**

**Visit us at the 8th floor Philamlife Bldg., Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa on May 27, 2006. Please bring a copy of your resumé and transcript of records. Testing and interviews will be done all throughout the day. Please call us at tel. no. 876-8888 or email us at BPSI-Applicants@aig.com for more information.**

Complete YOUR picture of success.

**AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG BPSI) is a business processing outsourcing (BPO) company currently dedicated to supporting the needs of AIG American General, one of the fastest growing major life insurance organizations in the United States.**

**The aim of AIG BPSI is to become a leading provider of outsourced backroom processing as well as contact-center services by integrating the best people, best processes and best technologies to provide better efficiency and service delivery to its customers.**

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

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www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

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**GOLDENVIEW**
International Gaming & Amusement Corporation

A proponent of PAGCOR (Casino Filipino) and one of the fastest growing gaming companies in the country, we are inviting qualified individuals to join our current pool of career oriented and dedicated personnel for our future expansion:

## BRANCH MANAGER

- Male or Female, not over 40 years old
- Graduate of Business Admin., Management or any 4-year business course
- 5 years experience in gaming operations & administration in a managerial capacity
- Strong business sense
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills
- Result-oriented, teamplayer
- Required language: Chinese speaking, Fukien and Mandarin

## ASST. MARKETING MANAGER

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or Advertising
- 3 years marketing work experience: planning, forecasting, events, ads & promo
- Strong understanding of the gaming business and market
- Strong analytical skills

## ASST. CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER

- Male or Female, not over 30 years old
- Graduate of Business Admin., Management or any 4-year business course
- 3 years work experience in a service-oriented company
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Required language: Chinese speaking, Fukien and Mandarin

## CLUB ADMIN. & BLDG. ADMINISTRATOR

- Male, not more than 35 years old
- 3 years work experience in property management & building administration
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills
- Can deal with all levels of people within & outside the organization

## CUSTOMER RELATIONS ASSISTANTS

- Female, not more than 25 years old preferably single
- Minimum height of 5'5"
- Pleasing personality
- 1 year work experience in a service-oriented company
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Required language: Chinese speaking, Fukien and Mandarin

## ADMIN. & FINANCE MANAGER

- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- 5 years work experience in Finance, General Cost Accounting in a construction firm
- Preferably with exposure in handling human resources and general administration
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

All positions are required to be knowledgeable in Microsoft Office: WORD, EXCEL and POWERPOINT.

Interested individuals may send their comprehensive resume with recent 2" x 2" picture thru e-mail at:

**hr_goldenview@yahoo.com**

**Previous applicants need not apply.**

**VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com**

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## Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

### SENIOR WEB PAGE DEVELOPER

You will develop applications and tools for the corporate intranet, as well as implement standards and methodologies for site development projects.

You must have a bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Engineering or a related discipline, with at least 3 years of experience in Web development. This includes proficiency in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Web user interface design and Photoshop. Expertise in PHP, MySQL Apache, UNIX, ASP and other server-side programming is a definite advantage.

Excellent communication, interpersonal and leadership skills; a good eye for detail; and a sound knowledge of business workflows are other necessary qualifications.

### PROJECT OFFICER

You will provide assistance in handling project management tasks, content quality and corporate Intranet site maintenance.

You must have a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Journalism/Communications or related discipline, with 2 years of experience in Internet and Web operations, such as layout/design and publishing. A solid background in hand-coded HTML and other scripts is an advantage.

Proficiency in spoken and written English language; strong leadership and project management skills with a good eye for details are mandatory.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international, dynamic work environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

**Corporate Human Resources**
**Online : career.globalsources.com**
**E-mail : gshr@globalsources.com**
**Fax : (632) 892-4087**
**Post : P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City**

global sources
www.globalsources.com

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**HARIBON FOUNDATION** is looking for a team of dedicated professionals and environmental advocates to occupy the following positions:

**Site Conservation Action Associate**
*Coordinates all on-site project actions with multi-sector stakeholders and other potential project partners.*
- Bachelors degree in Social Sciences or similar field, Post graduate degree is an advantage
- 3 years relevant experience with grounding in Social Development areas such as women and gender, IPs, micro-enterprise, etc.; familiar with the environmental sector
- Competent in Strategic Planning, Decision-Making and Conflict Management

**Site Conservation Action Specialist/Assistant**
*Undertakes on-site activities related to the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and rural livelihood initiatives.*
- Bachelors degree in Social Sciences or similar field
- Grounding in Social Development areas such as women and gender, IPs, micro-enterprise, etc.; familiar with the environmental sector

**Geomatics Specialist**
*Provides Geomatics expertise and services; Prepares and analyses maps and related data.*
- Bachelors degree in Geodetic Engineering or similar field
- At least 3 years experience in using GIS and field data gathering

**Campaigns Specialist**
*Spearheads the campaign activities of the organization.*
- Bachelors degree in Communication, Humanities, Political Science, Economics or other related courses; relevant post graduate units is an advantage
- 3 years experience in network and alliance building, mounting campaign activities preferably in the field of environmental conservation
- Must have excellent communication and presentation skills and adept at public speaking

**Writer**
*Writes a book/manual on a specified topic as well as articles regarding Haribon advocacies and special interests for publication in a national daily.*
- Bachelors degree in Journalism, Communication Arts or any 4-year course
- At least 5 years experience in writing manuals or books, features, and/or news stories. (Please submit sample works with your resume.)
- Available for a short term engagement (at least one month)

**Editor**
*Edits books and manuals published by Haribon.*
- Bachelors degree in Journalism, Communication Arts or any 4-year course
- 5 years experience in editing publication materials (i.e. books and manuals)
- Available for a short term engagement (at least one month)

**Graphics or Lay-out Artist**
*Lay-out and package various books and manuals published by Haribon.*
- Bachelors degree in Fine Arts, Communication or Advertising or any 4-year course
- At least 5 years experience in web management and design as well as in handling publication design and lay-out; fast worker, ability to quickly translate concepts into a design

**Publications Specialist/Web Designer**
*Does all lay-out, graphics, web design and other publication requirements of the organization.*
- Bachelors degree in Computer Science, Fine Arts or any 4-year course
- At least 5 years experience in web management and design as well as in handling publication design and lay-out; fast worker, ability to quickly translate concepts into a design

Applicants for the Writer, Editor, Lay-out and Graphics Artist, and Publications Specialist/Web Designer are requested to submit sample works together with your resume. Qualified applicants may send their resume to the Human Resources Unit, Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc., 4/F Fil-Garcia Tower, Kalayaan Avenue cor Mayaman St., Diliman Quezon City. You can also email at humanresources@haribon.org.ph, indicate on the subject line the **POSITION** you are applying for.

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**Computer Graphic Artist**
Fine Arts Graduate or related experience."
With Working Knowledge in Adobe Photoshop
& Illustrator, Knowledge in Flash MX,Dreamweaver
& Fireworks is a plus.
Candidate must be willing to work on
Graveyard Shift
**Pls. Email your Resume: romy@trisoftusa.com**

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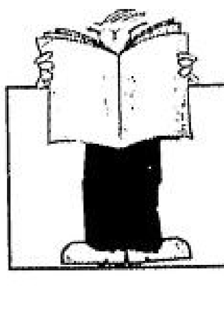
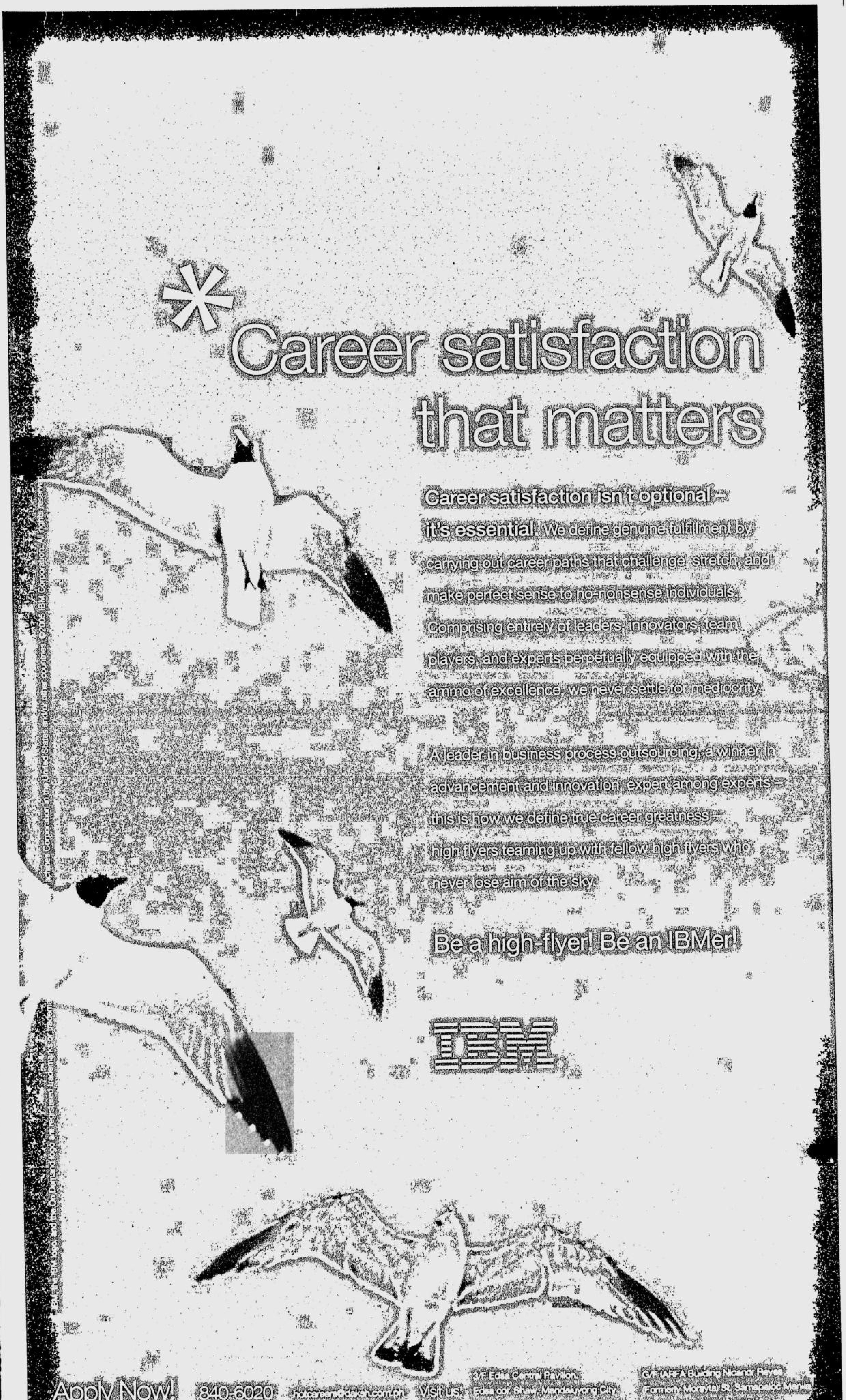


**SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY**

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com



# *Career satisfaction that matters

**Career satisfaction isn't optional – it's essential.** We define genuine fulfillment by carrying out career paths that challenge, stretch, and make perfect sense to no-nonsense individuals. Comprising entirely of leaders, innovators, team players, and experts perpetually equipped with the ammo of excellence, we never settle for mediocrity.

A leader in business process outsourcing, a winner in advancement and innovation, expert among experts – this is how we define true career greatness – high flyers teaming up with fellow high flyers who never lose aim of the sky.

**Be a high-flyer! Be an IBMer!**

IBM

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Edsa cor. Shaw, Mandaluyong City
Mondays to Saturdays 9 am to 6 pm

G/F IARFA Building Nicanor Reyes
(Formerly Morayta) St. Sampaloc Manila
Mondays to Fridays 9 am to 6 pm

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**IBM Daksh Business Process Services Philippines Inc.**

IBM

# Support and Leadership Positions

Accelerate your expertise, committed to a high-performance career

## Information Technology

### Data Network Specialist

- 3 to 7 years experience in data networking (LAN/WAN) and technical support.
- Should be a certified CISCO network associate (at least one above the lowest certification) or should have at least 2 - 4 years of relevant experience in data networking.

### System Administrator

- 3 to 7 years experience in systems/database administration and technical support.
- Should be a certified Microsoft/LINUX system administrator (at least one above the lowest certification) or should have at least 2 - 4 years of relevant experience in systems and database administration.

### Voice Network Specialist

- 3 to 7 years experience in Voice Network platforms (PBX, CTI, IVR, etc.) and Telecom/Technical support.
- Should be a certified CISCO/Avaya/Nortel network/voice engineer (at least one above the lowest certification) or should have at least 2 - 4 years of relevant experience in voice networking platforms.

### IT Operations Manager

- 8 to 12 years in the field of IT with exposure to systems administration, technical support and IT Operations.
- Must possess the experience in managing a team of IT professionals in a 24x7 support center in a medium to large IT operations set-up.
- Should have a strong understanding of Windows NT/2000 and UNIX servers, databases and applications, and must possess an appreciation of interplay between these on LAN/WAN & Voice Network infrastructure systems.

### Data Network Manager

- 8 - 10 years in the field of IT with exposure to Data and Voice Network infrastructure.
- Experience in managing a 24x7 operation is an advantage.
- Should have a strong understanding of LAN, WAN, Telecom and Voice platforms and an appreciation of interplay between these on Application systems.

### IT Project Manager

- Seasoned IT professional with a full understanding of IT industry practices.
- Must have at least 6 years of work experience, with exposure to project management in the IT Services or the IT Enabled Services Industry.
- Should have a sound understanding of Applications, LAN, WAN, Telecom & Voice platforms and must possess an appreciation of interplay between these on applications systems.
- Preferably Assistant Managers / Managers specializing in IT/Computer - Network/System/Database Admin or equivalent.

## Administration

### Facilities and Administration Associate

- Must have experience in handling administrative work/support services such as facilities management (e.g. supplies, security, building maintenance, third party contractors) and logistic support, preferably in a call center.

## Operations

### Team Leaders

- Must have at least 1 year of supervisory experience in a call center specifically for voice or email/chat support.
- Should possess the ability to handle a team and lead others effectively towards individual and team goals.

### Operations Manager

- Should have at least 6 years of work experience in the related field, preferably in a call center.
- Knowledgeable in account management and client coordination.
- Preferably Assistant Manager / Manager level.

## Human Resources

### Assistant Manager for Employee Relations

- Must have at least 4 years of work experience in Human Resources, specifically in Internal Communications/Compliance Management or Information Management.
- Preferably Assistant Manager / Manager level.
- Advanced skills in MS Excel and data analysis is an advantage.

### Payroll Associate

- Must have at least 2 years of experience in payroll processing and must have substantial exposure on payroll applications in a call center.
- Must be knowledgeable in compensation and benefits and should be comfortable with high transactional processes.

## Workforce Management

### Workforce Leader/Specialist

- Must have 2 years work experience in a call center.
- Workforce Leader candidates must have a proven track record in team handling.
- Should be familiar with various workforce planning methods and schedule forecasting.
- Should be familiar with different tools used in workforce management.
- Must be highly proficient in MS Excel and data analysis.

### Workflow Manager

- Must have at least a minimum of 2 - 4 years hands on experience in directly managing a team in a call center environment.
- Must be highly proficient in MS Excel and data analysis.
- Working knowledge of IEX software and Real Time Monitoring CCPulse is preferred.

## Recruitment

### Deputy Managers & Assistant Managers for Support and Leadership

- Should have at least 3-5 years experience in support and leadership recruitment.
- Must have call center exposure to be able to understand the various operational requirements of the different business units.

### Senior Recruitment Associate for Events

- Should have at least 2 years of work experience in events management.
- Must be knowledgeable in project management.
- Above average communication skills, public speaking and presentation skills are required.
- Experience in Sourcing activities in call center recruitment is an advantage.

### Events Manager

- Should have at least 6 years experience working in an events environment.
- Knowledge of total marketing mix including program management, marketing communications, events marketing and logistics is required.
- Must have good project management skills and excellent interpersonal skills.
- Must have good oral and written communication skills.
- Must be willing to travel within and outside Metro Manila.

### "Employer of Choice" Brand Manager

- Should have at least 6 years experience in Program Development and/or Public Relations.
- Must have good project management skills and excellent interpersonal skills.
- Must have good oral and written communication skills.
- Must be willing to travel within and outside Metro Manila.

## Training

### Voice and Accent Trainer

- Must have at least 1 year work experience, 6 months of which should be in call center operations, teaching or broadcasting.
- Must be familiar with linguistics and can facilitate grammar and speech classes.
- Must have excellent English communication skills

## Finance

### Employee Payables Associate

- Must possess a broad background and working knowledge on taxation.
- Should have experience in handling employee payables.
- Must be a CPA Board passer.
- Should be highly proficient in MS Office.

### Financial Analyst

- Must be knowledgeable in product costing, profitability analysis and budget preparation.
- Must be a CPA/CFA Board passer.

## Strategic Quality

### Quality Process Improvement and Six Sigma Manager

- Should have at least 6 years experience in business process improvement and the Six Sigma methodology.
- Must have a Blackbelt Certification in Six Sigma.
- Must have experience in leading and mentoring Six Sigma projects, preferably in a Call Center environment.
- Must have experience in conducting Six Sigma Training.
- Must be able to successfully manage multiple Six Sigma projects simultaneously.

## Other Openings Include:

### Operations

Operations Deputy Manager
Operations Deputy General Manager
Operations General Manager
Quality Manager - Operations

### Strategic Quality

Quality Process Improvement & Six Sigma Assistant Manager

### Finance

Finance Manager
Finance Planning Manager

**For Faster Processing of your Application, please include in the subject line of your email the position you are applying for.**

**For all posts in IT, Training, Workforce and Operations, candidates should be willing to work on shifting schedules.**

**All candidates for Support and Leadership positions must have completed their college degree, and must be willing to work either in Makati or Mandaluyong City.**

## Young? Energetic? Ambitious?

Prove that you have got what it takes to be a successful IBMer even at night!
Be one of our **Customer Care Specialists** for the following **Fortune 500 Companies:**

- Telecommunications ( Voice Support )
- Digital Imaging Co. ( Voice/Email Support )
  - HR back office support ( Speaks German )
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. ( Voice/Email Support )
  - HR back office support ( Speaks Mandarin & Cantonese )
- Internet Shopping Company ( Email/Chat Support )

### Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamicand schedule-shifting environment

***Call center experience is an advantage***

**Power English Now!**

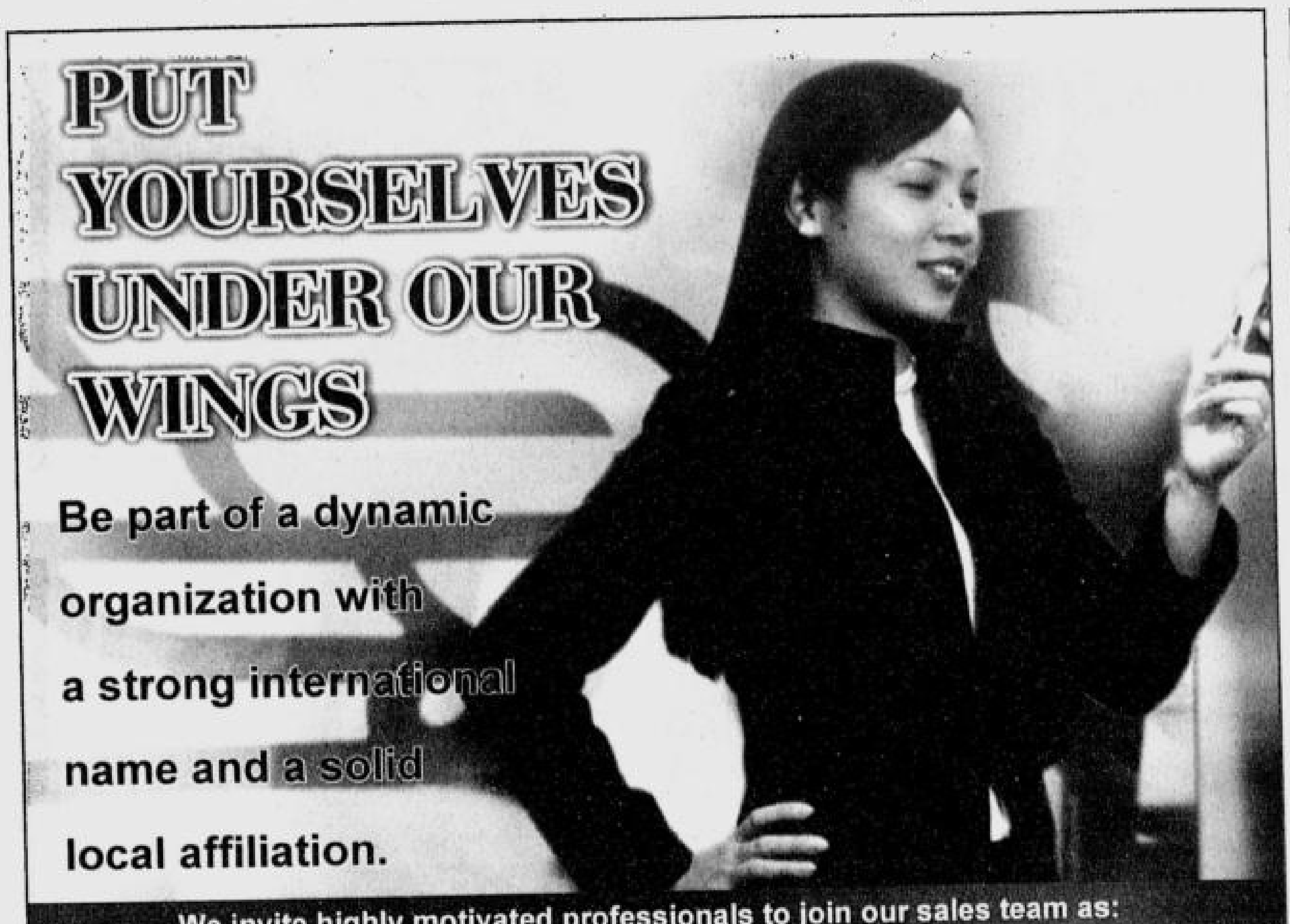
Power English Now! is a training program given to applicants who are interested in working for IBM Daksh. It is designed to help improve one's English communication proficiency and equip them with the necessary skills needed to be employed as a Customer Care Specialist.

If you are interested in our FREE training program, you must undergo our assessment process so we can gauge your proficiency in oral and written English and recommend your appropriate training curriculum. You must meet our basic criteria to qualify for our 4-week language training program.

**Apply Now!** 840-6020 hotcareers@daksh.com.ph **Visit us:**

3/F Edsa Central Pavilion.
Edsa cor. Shaw, Mandaluyong City
Mondays to Saturdays 9 am to 6 pm

G/F IARFA Building Nicanor Reyes
(Formerly Morayta) St. Samapaloc Manila
Mondays to Fridays 9 am to 6 pm


PUT YOURSELVES UNDER OUR WINGS
Be part of a dynamic organization with a strong international name and a solid local affiliation.

We invite highly motivated professionals to join our sales team as:

☑ **Insurance Consultants**
With a monthly subsidy of P 18,000

☑ **Unit Managers**
With a monthly subsidy of P 25,000

## FREE CAREER ORIENTATION PROGRAM!

To find out more, contact our Business Development Managers:

**Alabang Regional Office**
Rosemarie L. Franco
Tel: (02) 772-1786

**Makati Regional Office**
Neri A. Francisco
Tel: (02) 813-2117

**Mindanao Regional Office**
Norina S. Jose
Tel: (082) 227-5818

**Ortigas Regional Office**
Thaib R. Mella
Tel: (02) 900-5810

**Visayas Regional Office**
Dennis G. Lu
Tel: (032) 232-3465

**Bacolod Sales Office**
Jessric N. Naria
Tel: (034) 433-8823

Job opportunities are also available through our Regional Directors' Offices in the following areas:

- Angeles City
- Baguio City
- Cagayan de Oro City
- Cebu, Mandaue City
- Davao City
- General Santos City
- Legazpi City
- Naga City

Please call Evelyn C. Matanguihan
Tel: (02) 886-5258 local 323 • Mobile: (0917) 806-8497
Email: ecmatanguihan@generali.com.ph

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JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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KSEARCH
ASIA CONSULTING, INC

## Career Breakthrough Opportunities!

**Our Client** – a multinational organization notable for its leading edge global operations, multi-cultural customer base, and empowered workforce – **has urgent need for Finance and Accounting professionals to strengthen their team in the Finance group.**

**Job requirements are in the following areas supporting the organization's diverse operations in the Asia Pacific and North America:**

I. **Financial Accounting**. Responsibilities include periodic analysis of key balance sheet accounts to test for policy and procedure compliance and recommend procedural improvements, as well as provide a full range of property accounting services for properties with complex operations involving projects with diverse scope and significant dollar amounts and/or unusually high levels of fixed asset movement. This is primarily in the areas of Equity and Subsidiary Accounting, Specialty Accounting, Intercompany Accounting, Bank Reconciliation, Fixed Assets, and General Accounting

II. **Project Implementation.** Responsibilities include the documentation, review, and redesign of Finance and Accounting business processes of the customer base. Related jobs may include Process Migration, Systems Integration, Business Process Reengineering, Quality Assurance, and Business Planning.

**Ideal Candidates must have the following qualifications:**

- Certified Public Accountant
- At least 2 solid years of experience in Public Accounting, Finance, Accounting, and/or Consulting work. **Those with 6 to 10 years of experience will be considered in the available leadership posts.**
- Outstanding skills in leadership, teamwork, and customer engagement
- Good skills in communication and can deliver effective presentations across a multi-cultural customer base
- Must have the propensity to work in a proactive, results-oriented, and customer-focused environment, enjoy working with people with diverse cultural backgrounds, and eager to learn and employ technology of world-class standards.

Our client is globally renowned as the leader in the industry, with a team of high-caliber professionals using state-of-the-art systems and technology. To be a part of this team, please send your resumes to **KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc. c/o Dein Lopez at the 22nd Floor, 139 Corporate Centre Building, 139 Corporate Centre, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City; or email to dlopez@ksearchasia.com ; fax at 893-6259.**

**Challenging career opportunities and attractive compensation package await the successful candidates**

**Applications received before 31 May 2006 will have an advantage.**

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TOP PERFORMER AWARDEE 2002-2005

## 200 NURSES FOR NEW ZEALAND

**RELIABLE RECRUITMENT CORPORATION**
**POEA License No. 280LB-052802-R**
**In cooperation with Sunshine Personnel LTD.**
**Accred. No. 76284, Recruitment International (NZ) Limited, Accred. No. 74832-2 and Capital Care & Nursing LTD, Accred. No. 76279.**

**Requirements:**

- At least 1 year hospital experience
- IELTS passers with over all band of 7.0 or over with 7.0 in both speaking, writing, reading & listening or OET passer (Occupational English Test).
- Holders of NCNZ letter of approval may deploy as soon as possible
- Holders of nursing registration certificate of New Zealand, Ireland, United Kingdom & Australia have ready employers.
- 12 months contract (renewable)

**Benefits:**

- Financing of placement fee is available
- Salary at par with N.Z. nurses (NZ$ 3,583.33 / month:
  - a. Overtime pay NZ$ 27.75/hour
  - b. Public Holidays NZ$ 40.50/hour
- Irresistable fringe benefits
- Deployment as soon as possible
- Can be permanent resident after 3 months
- Can sponsor immediate member of family within 6 months
- No racial discrimination

***For Professional and Personal Advancement, New Zealand is for you!!!***

"FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED"

## URGENT NEEDS FOR CANADA

SOUTH COAST FORD SALES LTD.
P.O. Box SECHELT BC
VON – 300 CANADA

## FORD, TOYOTA & NISSAN DIESEL MECHANICS

**Qualification:**

- Experience with diesel engine – 7.31 and 61 diesel
- 5-6 years experience on Ford vehicles
- 25-40 years of age – Male applicants
- Ready to sign 2 years contract with extension
- Must have hand tools (special tools by company)

**Benefits:**

- Free medical/dental
- Free workman compensations
- Free long term disability insurance
- Salary $ 16.00 - $ 26.25 per hour
- Employer to apply work permit

**Please report for personal interview at:**

**RELIABLE RECRUITMENT CORPORATION**
1166 Grey Street
Ermita Manila
Tel. No 5222128 / 5251935

**MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER**

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Alouette Agency, Inc.
Executive Recruiter

Here is a job opportunity for you to work for one of the Top Three Universal Bank in the country. They are in the process of expanding their Call Center Operations. As such, we are looking for

## CUSTOMER BANKING SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES / TRAINEES

who possess the following qualifications:

- Graduate of any four year course from UP (Diliman/Manila), DLSU (Taft/ Dasmariñas), Ateneo (Manila/Naga/Davao), UST, St. Paul (Q.C./ Manila), DLS-CSB, Miriam College, San Beda College ( Manila/ Alabang), Mapua ( Makati,/Manila), Don Bosco College, Assumption College, University of Asia & the Pacific, St. Scholastica's College other reputable schools.
- With a grade point average of not less than 80% and no academic failing grades
- Good command of the English language.
- Computer Literate
- Not more than 28 years old
- Open to Shifting Schedule

This is an urgent requirement and training sessions will start on the last week of May. An attractive compensation package awaits the hired candidates. Please send your resume along with your transcript of records to alonette@globelines.com.ph and address your message to Tanya Honrado or Tina Codera. Our contact nos. are 5342919/7194053/7190584

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EDPITAF

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE

DepED

## BULLETIN OF VACANT CONTRACTUAL POSITION

### Government of Spain-Government of the Philippines Project

*(Support to the DepEd for the Improvement in the Quality of Education through Training Programs and Providing New/Rehabilitated Classrooms in the identified schools of Regions/Divisions of Aurora, Quezon, Iloilo, Zamboanga City, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and North Cotabato)*

**(1) Project Manager III** – SG 27; Master's degree in Business Management; Administration; Public Administration; Social; with 15 years experience relevant to the job; 10 years in position involving management and supervision; 160 hours of training in management and supervision; Eligibility: RA 1080

**(1) Engineer V** - SG 24; Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; with 10 years experience relevant to the job; 5 years in position involving management and supervision; 120 hours of training in management and supervision; Eligibility: RA 1080

**(7) Engineer III** - SG 19; Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; 5 years experience relevant to the job; 3 years supervisory experience; 40 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080

*Must be willing to be assigned in any of the following DepEd Division Offices: Zamboanga City, Iloilo Province, Aurora Province, Quezon Province, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and North Cotabato.*

**(1) Architect II** - SG 16; Bachelor's degree in Architecture; 5 years experience relevant to the job; 40 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080

**(1) Project Development Officer III** - SG 18; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 2 years of relevant experience in project implementation particularly in physical facilities, training and finance components; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional)

**(1) Project Development Officer II** - SG 15; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 3 years of relevant experience in project implementation (physical facilities, training and finance components); 12 hours of relevant training in project implementation; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional)

**(1) Driver II** - SG 4; Elementary school graduate; with at least 3 years of driving experience; Licensed; (MC 11, s. 1996 – Cat. II)

Deadline for submission of applications is May 24, 2006.

Please send comprehensive resume and credentials to the following address:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DepEd-EDPITAF
Dorm D, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

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## A daily E-Newspaper producing several international edition is in need of the following:

Position: **News Writer/Editor**
Location: Makati City
Requirements:
- A four-year degree in Mass Communication/Journalism
- Must have high analytical and comprehension skills
- Excellent English communication and grammar skills
- Top notch news writing/editing/ proofreading skills
- Proficient in typing and PC Use
- Should be willing to work evenings and able to withstand the pressure from daily deadlines
- Those conversant in a third language have a definite advantage

Position: **Programmer / System & Network Administrator**
Location: Makati City
Requirements:
- Expert on Linux servers
- Knowledgeable in PHP or Perl programming
- Willing to work evenings (6 days a week including weekends)
- Can Communicate in English with other IT officer and non technical people

**Email resumé, including expected salary range (in .txt format) to nlp.jobs@gmail.com**

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HomeCredit
MUTUAL BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION
A subsidiary of The Insular Life Assurance Co., Ltd.,

Is in need of the following Personnel:

### SENIOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (code: SBDO)

- 22-30 yrs. old / College Graduate
- Has at least 2 yrs. experience in Sales and/or Business Dev't
- Possesses a strong sales & marketing drive with excellent presentation skills
- Willing to go on field work. With valid drivers license

### ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMER

- College Graduate
- With at least 2 years work experience in any of the following industries:
  - Banking/Finance or Real Estate
- Must be proficient in the following:
  - Visual Basic 6.0.
  - MS-Access
  - MS-Frontpage
  - SQL Server 7 and above
- Knowledgeable in the following:
  - Visual Basic .Net
  - Windows 2000 Active Directory setup and installation
  - Windows Networking (LAN/WAN)
  - Web development

### ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant
- 35 years old and below
- With at least 5 years managerial experience in all facets of Accounting operations preferably in a financing company
- With knowledge in International Accounting Standards
- Analytical with strong leadership skills, trustworthy and flexible
- Excellent interpersonal skills and result-oriented
- Proficient in both oral and written communication skills
- Computer Literate

Please submit your 2x2 photo, comprehensive resumé on or before May 31, 2006 to: HOMECREDIT MUTUAL BUILDING & LOAN ASSN. 26th /F Tower 1, ILCorporate Centre, Insular Life drive, Filinvest, Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City FAX NO.: 771-1166 or 771-1225 or E-MAIL US AT: its@homecredit.com.ph

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## LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

**REQUIREMENTS:**

☐ Male, not over 40 years old
☐ Must have knowledge in Electrical Wiring and Broadcast Equipment
☐ Preferably with experience in TV production

Please submit/hand-carry your resumé at the address below:

TAPE, Inc.
79 Xavierville Avenue,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

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## FINANCING COMPANY

needs

## VICE PRESIDENT

A highly successful Makati-based financing company in business since 1977, needs a well-experienced, energetic Vice-President to take charge of day to day operations and push business development to enlarge its loans portfolio and deposit base. Send your very detailed. Resume' w/ references & 2x2 photo to: Ms.Monica Mendoza, Central P.O.Box 1937, Makati City. State acceptable salary.

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A GLOBAL CONSULTANCY

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for all ACCOUNTING and IT PROFESSIONALS

Bring your resumes to the

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May 26, 2006
9AM to 6PM

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Startup quarterly consumer magazine based in Makati currently seeking the following (full-time positions):

## CREATIVE EDITOR / ART DIRECTOR

- 3 years of relevant experience for a magazine publication
- Good management and communication skills
- Proven editorial skills, including writing, editing, and proofreading
- Familiarity with Windows-based computers and graphics design software

## LEAD GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- 2 years of relevant experience for a magazine publication
- Familiarity with Windows-based computers and graphics design software

## CIRCULATION / DISTRIBUTION + MANAGER

- 2 years of relevant experience for a magazine publication

Salary will depend on experience. We will offer comprehensive benefits, excellent performance incentives and bonuses. To apply, please send a cover letter and resumé to: bgroupinc@yahoo.com; please put "Job Application" in the subject line.

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## JOB OPENINGS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

| | |
|---|---|
| **BUSINESS UNIT ASSISTANTS** | M/F; 25 years old-below; Business, Computer Science, IT or Computer Application graduates; With or w/o experience; Articulate; Presentable |
| **ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS** | M/F; 25 years old-below; Accountancy/Acctg Financial or Management Acctg. graduates; Knowledge in Oracle is a definite advantage. |
| **ASSISTANT ENGINEERS** | Pref: Male aged 25 years-below; Graduate of Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; With at least 1-2 years related experience |
| **MARKETING ASSISTANTS** | F; Marketing or Business course graduates; Articulate; Presentable; Willing to travel |
| **TELEMARKETERS** | M/F; College graduates or undergraduates with related experience are welcome; Articulate |
| **RECEPTIONISTS** | F; College graduates; Articulate, Personable |
| **CLERKS, DATA PROCESSORS** | M/F; College graduates; types at least 35WPM |

Interested applicants who will handcarry their resumés and 2x2 photo may do so from Monday-Friday, between 8:30 AM-5:00 PM from May 22-June 2, 2006. **ATM-PAI, Inc.**, Unit 1610 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City (beside RCBC Plaza and behind GT Tower / near Shell Maya) Telephones: 817-3315; 812-2654; 812-2653 / Email: atmpai@gmail.com

**IMPORTANT:** For those who will send their documents by email, please do not attach your resumé! Combine them with your application letter instead of a separate file.

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## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY

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has the following vacancies for the School Year 2006-2007:

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**Qualifications:** Graduates of BSE, BEEd, or BS Degree (with teaching experience / at least 18 education units); with LET; Female and not more than 35 years old

| | |
|---|---|
| **PRINTING OFFICE STAFF** | Preferably graduate of Management/ Business Administration; At least one year related work experience |
| **COMMUNITY DEVELOPER** | Graduate of BS Community Development; At least one year related experience |
| **AUDIO-VISUAL STAFF** | Graduate of any four-year course; preferably with training or experience related to audio-visual work |
| **PABX OPERATOR** | Graduate of any four-year course; Can communicate fluently in English and Filipino; Knowledgeable in basic computer application; With pleasing personality |

*** *Applicants for office positions must be knowledgeable in basic MS Office Applications; Is organized and systematic and with good communication and interpersonal skills; Female and not more than 28 years old*

Interested applicants may apply in person and bring the following requirements: 2 pcs. ID pictures – 1x1, Application letter, Comprehensive resumé, Transcript of records, Photocopy of LET ID (if applicable)

Office Hours: Mondays to Fridays 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
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**For Inquiries, please call 7237041 loc. 233 or email hr@icagh.edu.ph**

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This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for registration / more information. Limited seats only.

## The 27 killer sales tactics

THIS RARE SEMINAR could be the turning point of your salespeople in selling. Discover the unconventional tools and techniques that will help empower your people and enable them to become more productive. If your people will grasp even half of what will be taught in this session, there will be a remarkable change in their performance. Don't miss this important event on May 31, 1–5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

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## TAIKISHA PHILIPPINES INC.

*a local subsidiary of a global Japanese engineering and construction firm*

**has immediate need for the following positions:**

### Project Engineer

- Graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- With at least 5 years experience as project supervisor in electro-mechanical engineering construction
- Knowledgeable of HVAC, fire protection, plumbing, utility and piping works
- Male, Computer literate with knowledge of CAD application
- Highly motivated and willing to work under pressure

### CAD Operator

- Graduate of Engineering, Architecture or other related fields
- Male, between 23-27 years old
- With 1 – 2 years work experience on mechanical, electrical design works in a construction or engineering company

### Safety Engineer

- Graduate of any Engineering course
- Male, between 25-35 years old
- Must be a safety and health practitioner for at least two (2) years in a construction company
- Must be DOLE accredited
- Must be able to develop, train and maintain safety policy programs for the company and construction sites

**Successful candidates will be assigned in our Laguna and Cavite projects.**

**Submit bio-data with details of previous work responsibilities, 2 x 2 photo, and transcript of records to:**

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5th Floor Golden Rock Building
168 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
**ATTENTION: PERSONNEL DIVISION**
Email Address: tpiper@taikisha.com.ph

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Applicants should, desirably, have some exposure to Construction or Engineering businesses

Age range of applicants should be between 30 – 40. Personal qualities of independence, dynamism and resourcefulness are critical as is a high level of computer literacy.

The opportunities for career development within the Jardine Group are substantial and the remuneration and benefits package is excellent. Regular performance reviews, feedback and structured training support our impressive people development programs.

Please send your resume (including details of current salary) by post, email or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies Building
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com / Fax No. 844-7022

*Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.*

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## Strong career growth opportunities awaits qualified candidates ...

### ACCOUNTING / TREASURY

- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, Finance, Accounting, Banking or equivalent
- Preferably with 1-2 years related experience; newly graduates are also welcome
- CPA an advantage
- Has the capacity to multi-task

### OFFICE STAFF / MALL CLERK

- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- With 1-2 years experience; newly graduates are also welcome
- With pleasing personality; at least 5'3 in height
- Proficient in using MS Office applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Has the capacity to multi-task

### PROGRAMMER

- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Management, Information Technology or equivalent
- With at least 1 year related experience; Foxpro programming an advantage
- Honest and hardworking

### ADVERTISING & COMMUNICATIONS

- Graduate of any business or communications course from a reputable university
- With at least 2 years related experience
- Excellent in oral and written communication
- With vibrant personality
- Has to be creative, articulate and personable
- Has the capacity to multi-task

### DRIVER-MECHANIC

- Male, not more than 35 years old
- At least college level
- With at least 1-3 years related experience
- Professional driver's license holder; 123 restriction an advantage
- Preferably a resident of Pasig City

### MAINTENANCE / UTILITY

- At least high school graduate
- With at least 1 year related experience
- Honest and hardworking

**Interested applicants may send their resumé or apply personally at:**

MatchMate Manpower & General Services Inc.

10/F State Centre II Bldg. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City (beside POEA)
Tel: 63 2 7238397 / 7247107 loc 24
Fax: 63 2 7234013
Email: matchmate_manpower@yahoo.com

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## STA. LUCIA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORP.

We are the leading real estate, golf course and country club developer and have opportunities for competent managerial human resources to join our management team for the various existing golf and country clubs as well as soon to be opened golf clubs in Baguio, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Batangas.

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In charge of the overall management and profitability of the golf and country club operations, the candidate should possess a reputable background in business management.

### GOLF EVENT OPERATIONS MANAGERS

In charge of managing the day to day golf operations to include, golf events and tournaments. Candidate must have gained planning and organizing and implementing events and knowledgeable of golf tournaments rules and formats.

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP MANAGERS

In charge of the management of the club membership in planning and directing the overall functions of the membership affairs to ensure effective and efficient service in maintaining quality relations with its members and prospective members.

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGERS

In charge of the satisfaction of its clientele thru cost effective management, development and implementation of F & B services and systems of the various outlets of the club to include fine dining and event functions.

### EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPERS

In charge of the upkeep of the club facilities and grounds maintenance in ensuring the quality image of the golf club.

### FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE MANAGERS

In charge of the maintenance of the country clubs' requirements to include mechanical and electrical requirements or its various facilities to include recreational facilities.

### FINANCE MANAGERS

In charge of the overall club's financial planning and control systems.

### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS

In charge of the overall human resources function in administering and developing the various HR systems and administrative requirements.

Qualified candidates await compensation package and unlimited career opportunities for growth and development. Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé highlighting work experience and compensation expectations to:

The Project Director
**STA. LUCIA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORP.**
3rd & 4th Floors, Bldg. 11, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall, Marcos Highway
Corner Felix Ave. Cainta, Rizal
e-mail: omds@nsclub.net

## IMMEDIATE HIRING

**ENCODERS**
- FEMALE, COLLEGE GRADUATE, WITH EXPERIENCE AS ENCODER
- KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MICROSOFT EXCEL

**MICROBIOLOGIST/LABORATORY TECHNICIAN/QUALITY ASSURANCE**
- COLLEGE GRADUATE OF ANY SCIENCE COURSE
- WITH EXPERIENCE

**COMPUTER TECHNICIAN**
- GRADUATE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE/ TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIVALENT
- BACKGROUND IN PC TROUBLESHOOTING, KNOWLEDGEABLE IN MS OFFICE, INTERNET AND NETWORK GAMES

**CUSTOMER SERVICE ASST.**
- GRADUATE OF AT LEAST ANY 2 YEARS COURSE, GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS, COMPUTER LITERATE, WILLING TO WORK FLEXIBLE HOURS

Apply personally at 3/f Sentro Kapitolyo Bldg., #59 West Capitol Drive, Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig
Tel. No. 747-2222, 637-2920

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**An office and computer products distributor is in need of the following:**

### Accounting Staff
- Male/Female, not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy

### Marketing Assistant
- Male/Female, not more than 26 years old
- College graduate preferably in any business course
- With good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to do fieldwork whenever necessary
- Creative, analytical, resourceful and innovative
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Computer literate

### Graphic/Web Artist
- Male/female, not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science or related field
- Basic knowledge of SQL, Java, Web programming

Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Submit bio-data and apply personally at:
443 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo Manila (across Jollibee)
On or before 26 May 2006 between 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**email: info@acsystrade.com**

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WANTED
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS/MANAGER**
- Female, age 20- 30
- College graduate from reputable school
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- Salary commensurate with qualification

Interested parties, email eascnde_ee@yahoo.com.ph
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## EXP'D CIVIL ENG'R/ ARCHITECT

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**CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION IS MAY 26, 2006, OUR OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9:00AM TO 10:00PM FOR PRE-SCREENING**

**IT DIVISION (50 Nos. REQUIRED)**

**HRMS PROGRAMMERS Salary bet PhP97K to PhP124K** (1 to 2 yrs experience in Forms & Reports Development, API's & Customization in Oracle Human Resource Management System/ERP).

**C++ PROGRAMMERS Salary bet PhP97K to PhP124K** (3 yrs programming experience in C, C++, VC++ in IT or Banking industry; good working knowledge in Oracle & Access database)

**SR. OFFICERS – CARD MANAGEMENT Salary bet PhP140K to PhP 210K** (5 yrs exp in Cards Mgmt; solid understanding on EMV, Visa, MasterCard, Amex & Diners Cards; programming skills in C & C++; experienced w/ Prime 3 & Prime 1.2 Online (CTL), PreEdit & PowerEMV applications; understanding of various OS i. e. Windows & Unix; good understanding of payment protocols i. e. ISO 8583, APACS30, APACS40, Visa MDC, etc.)

**SR. DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS – VENDOR MANAGEMENT Salary bet PhP140K to PhP 210K** (5 yrs exp in the IT industry; w/ thorough understanding of RFP, RFQ, SLA, AMC, legal review of contracts; sound knowledge of application dev't. methodologies; knowledge of OS i. e. Windows & Unix; knowledge of relational databases & their front end tools).

**RELEASE MANAGERS Salary bet PhP182K to PhP 252K** (7 yrs exp dealing w/ large/medium size vendors; overall knowledge of the business environment & the information systems' operational in banking industry; w/ sufficient exp managing Technical Staff).

**RETAIL BANKING DIVISION (10 Nos. REQUIRED)**

**BRANCH SUPERVISORS Salary bet. PhP97K to PhP124K** (M/F not over 29 yrs old w/ 3 yrs min supervisory exp in High Counter Tellering)

**Please bring 2 sets of Resume, Soft Copy of Resume, Current Payslip, Company ID, Employment/Training Certificates, Diploma & TOR, Passport, 3 passport-sized photos & 3R photos for preliminary screening to:**

**GRANDER EMPLOYMENT & MANPOWER SERVICES, Inc.**
License No. POEA-009-LB-031505-UL
Unit 6H Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Ave.Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Tel No. **683.0497** Fax No. **637.8192** email: **grander@pldtdsl.net**

**NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED, BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS**

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## PROGRESSIVE LABORATORIES

is in need of a

## BOOKKEEPER

**QUALIFICATIONS:**
- Female/Male
- Newly graduate of BS major in Accounting or Management
- Must be 20-30 years old
- Has pleasing personality with above average communication skills (both written and oral)
- Willing to work under pressure but open to instructions

Interested applicants may email their application letter, comprehensive resumé, and transcript of records at inquiries@progressivelab.com or you may contact Janine Atienza at 0917-8238888 or at tel. nos. 371-3936, 411-2620, and 411-2592 for details.

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## SM

*If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder*

### Warehouse Manager / Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for the assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning, controlling and directing operations/functions of a group.

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- with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business
- ability to lead, motivate, and foster teamwork in the department

### Warehouse Analyst

The successful candidate will be responsible for the formulation of policies and procedures concerning warehouse operations; conduct training program such as new merchandising system and orientation of warehouse policies to managers and supervisors; recommend module enhancement to increase performance, security and stability of the system based on feedback from branches and audit findings; assist in branch opening activities and prepares necessary report for warehouse operations.

- Male; not over 29 years old
- Graduate of Engineering or any four year course
- With at least 1 year work related experience in a retail or manufacturing industry
- Highly analytical; with good oral and written communication skills
- With high level of computer literacy
- Willing to be assigned to provincial branches

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday,
9:00 am - 4:00 pm at:

**SM MART, INC.**
**SM Corporate Office, Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard,**
**SM Central Business Park,**
**Bay City, Pasay City**
**or**
**www.sm-shoemart.com**
**Recruit.SMHO@sm-shoemart.com**

*(Please bring comprehensive resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number/SSS Employment History printout, photocopy and original Transcript of Records and Diploma)*

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**A Dynamic and fast-growing company is urgently in need of:**
- **Sales / Marketing Officer**
- **Office Assistant**
- **Freelance Sales Agent**

**Must be graduate of a 4-year related course and with pleasing personality. Must be in between 24-30 years old only.** If you think you want to make it big, please send your resumé at 2nd flr. 280 San Fernando St., Binondo, Manila with your most recent 2x2 picture. Email: sa_phils@i-manila.com.ph / Sa_phils_corp@yahoo.com

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**The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper in the country is in need of:**

### Business Development Officers

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably with Marketing and Financial background
- Highly motivated, aggressive and hardworking
- Result oriented
- Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills in both English and Filipino
- Willing to be relocated Luzon, Visayas and/or Mindanao
- Willing to work in fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment

### Finance Division Secretary

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably with background in Accounting
- 1 year experience in related job.
- With secretarial skills
- Knowledge of basic office and e-mail software
- Knowledge of basic computer program, Typing Skills, Communication Skills, Basic Writing Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Filing Skills

### Pre-press Specialist

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

Send your application letter
and comprehensive resumé to:

**THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD**
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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### TWO (2) ACCOUNT DIRECTORS

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| *MARKETING SPECIALIST | P12,000.00 |
| *CUSTOMER SERVICE | P 9,000.00 |
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**Apply in person bring your resume/bio-data with 2x2 picture together with this AD.**
**Interview starts @11 AM to 5 PM from MONDAY-FRIDAY**
**Applicants must be 18-35 years old**
**WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE, GRADS OR UNDERGRADS OF ANY COURSE**

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|---|---|
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| FACULTY MEMBERS (Full time or Part time)<br>Accountancy<br>Arts & Sciences<br>English/Filipino<br>Social Sciences<br>Psychology<br>Business Administration<br>Economics<br>Marketing<br>Computer Science & IT<br>Education<br>Science<br>Engineering<br>Electronics and Comm.<br>Computer Engineering<br>Physical Education<br>HRM<br>Mass Comm.<br>Tourism<br>Mathematics<br>Food Tech<br>Home Economics | Holder of appropriate Degree with good command of English language<br>(For Cainta, Angono, Antipolo, San Mateo, Cogeo, Pasig and Marikina) |

REQUIREMENTS: Application letter, resume with 2x2 colored picture, Medical and NBI Clearance Diploma, Copy of Transcript of Records, PRC license (if Applicable) and references

ATTN : HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
DROP BOX at 220B Wilson St Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila or PO Box # 559Greenhills, San Juan Metro Manila

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We are in search of people who are
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**Send your resume, 2x2 photo, transcript of scholastic records, contact numbers and address not later than 26 May 2006 (Friday) to**

**InnoMED Systems, Inc.**
**Unit 208 Continental Court Bldg**
**47 Annapolis Street Greenhills**
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**We offer competitive salary, daily allowance, plus commissions and incentives**

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# Medical checkups mandatory for OFWs in Malaysia

ALL OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) bound for Malaysia will now be required to undergo compulsory medical examinations at least twice during their first year of stay in this country, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) today said.

Citing a report from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuala Lumpur, Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said that the Malaysian government requires OFWs and other foreign workers including domestic workers to undergo medical examinations within the first month of their arrival in Malaysia and again at the end of their first year of stay in this country.

A third check-up is also required of all foreign workers at the end of their second year of stay in Malaysia, Sto. Tomas said adding that the new Malaysian immigration ruling also applies to foreign workers who are already in Malaysia.

Undersecretary Manuel G. Imson, DOLE spokesperson, said that the Malaysian government is implementing the compulsory requirement to ensure that all foreign workers in Malaysia are free from contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, hepatitis B, syphilis, and HIV/AIDS.

Previously, new foreign workers in Malaysia were only required to undergo health examination within a month of their arrival in the country.

The DOLE chief remarked that the new Malaysian immigration ruling is beneficial to the OFWs saying " it raises the OFWs' awareness on the need to protect themselves from contamination against dreaded diseases that may jeopardize their employment in Malaysia."

Kuala Lumpur-based Labor Attache Josephus Jimenez in his report said that Malaysia wants all foreign workers to undergo mandatory medical examinations following a recent random check of foreign workers which showed that some 40,000 immigrant workers were carriers of contagious diseases.

Jimenez said that the new ruling is an effort of the Malaysian government to prevent the spread of contagious diseases in Malaysia and protect its nationals from contamination.

He said that the Malaysian government is insisting that all employers in the country to subject their foreign workers including DHs to medical examinations in view of the many cases of foreign workers who were already infected upon their arrival in Malaysia.

It is estimated that there are 2.3 million registered immigrant workers including 500,000 illegals in Malaysia.

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# Can fathers be blamed for success or failure at work?

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

NEW YORK—SUCCESSES or failures of employees in the workplace can be traced to what kind of father they had, a psychologist argues in a new book.

In "The Father Factor," Stephan Poulter lists five styles of fathers—super-achieving, time bomb, passive, absent and compassionate/mentor—who have powerful influences on the careers of their sons and daughters.

Children of the "time-bomb" father, for example, who explodes in anger at his family, learn how to read people and their moods. Those intuitive abilities make them good at such jobs as personnel managers or negotiators, he writes. But those same children may have trouble feeling safe and developing trust, said Poulter, a clinical psychologist who also works with adolescents in Los Angeles area schools.

"I've seen more people hit their heads on what they call a glass ceiling or a cement wall in their careers, and it's what I call the father factor," Poulter said in an interview. "What role did your father have in your life? It's this unknown variable, which has this huge impact because we're all sons and daughters."

Styles of fathering can affect whether their children get along with others at work, have an entrepreneurial spirit, worry too much about their career, burn out or become the boss, Poulter writes.

Even absent fathers affect how their children work, he writes, by instilling feelings of rejection and abandonment. Those children may be overachievers, becoming the person their father never was, or develop such anger toward supervisors or authority figures that they work best when they are self-employed, he writes.

"A lot of people say, 'I never knew my dad,'" he said. But, he added: "You knew the myth, you knew your mother's hatred, you knew your anger, you knew your dad was a loser. Trust me, you knew your dad."

"The father's influence in the workplace is really one of the best-kept secrets," he said.

Poulter co-authored an earlier book on mothers and daughters called "Mending the Broken Bough." "The Father Factor" is set for release next month by Prometheus Books.

Looking at the influence of fathers fits with other recent research on workplace behavior, said William Pollack, a psychology professor and director of the Centers for Men and Young Men at McLean Hospital, part of Harvard Medical School.

"There's been a good deal of research to show not only that our family-life experience and our experience with our parents affects our personality, but it affects our corporate personality, both as leaders and followers," said Pollack, author of "Real Boys."

"There's also good research to show that for men and women, the way they identify with their father and their father's role may well affect how they interact as a manager or leader in the workplace." Poulter, by the way, describes his own father as the absent type. After this book, he said, "my dad won't even talk to me." ***Reuters***

# *Keep workers happy by upgrading their computers*

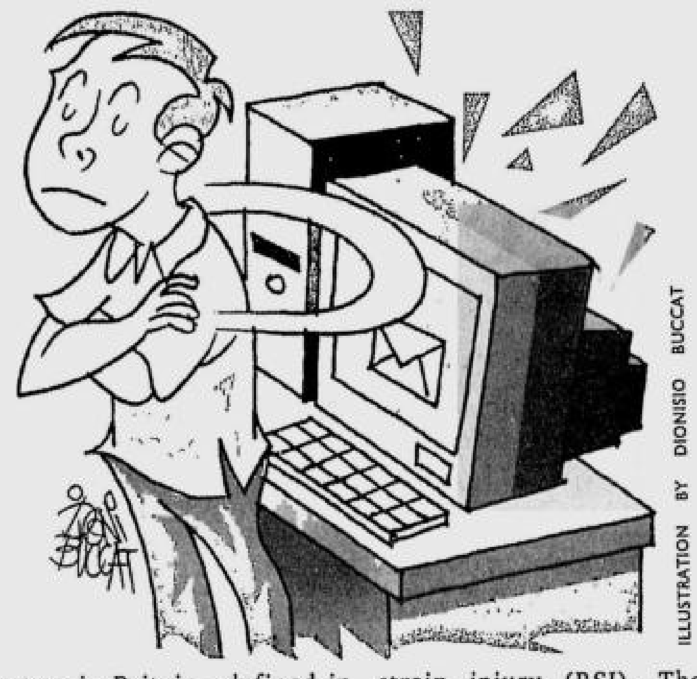

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

LONDON—DEALING WITH the frustrations of ageing and unreliable office computers contributes to workers' unhappiness and more sick-leave, a survey showed on Wednesday.

A poll conducted by Tickbox.net of over 2,700 European office workers from the UK, France and Germany found that workplace dissatisfaction increased significantly with the age of computer equipment.

British and French respondents said working on outdated computers was the most irritating aspect of office life.

"Overall we do know that job satisfaction is in decline in Britain and in most advanced nations," said Stephen Overell, a spokesman for The Work Foundation, a think tank and consultancy specializing in the working life.

"The actual reasons for this are the subject of very intense debate. It's certainly one interesting theory that technology may be the cause of this in some way," Overell said, noting that computers have become a part of most jobs.

Almost 40 percent of workers surveyed in the three countries were using computers at least three years old, with clerical and administrative workers among those using the oldest equipment.

About a third of Britons polled said they work on office equipment that was three years old or more.

Just under a quarter of those using outdated computers in Britain—defined in most cases as five years or more—said they were "quite" or "very dissatisfied" with their everyday job compared to 16 percent of those benefiting from up-to-date technology.

Overall, 75 percent of those working with old equipment agreed that an upgrade would lead to more productivity, the independent survey commissioned by computer screen maker ViewSonic found.

The survey also said that among workers dealing with outdated equipment, there was a 35 percent greater likelihood they would take six or more days of sick-leave per year compared with the average worker. In France, where more workers use older computers, the likelihood jumped to 55 percent.

About two-thirds of those polled also complained of problems like eye fatigue, headaches, and repetitive strain injury (RSI). The number was highest in France.

Results also showed that women in all three countries were consistently more likely to be using outdated equipment.

In the UK, where more workers have up-to-date computers than in the other countries surveyed, the number of women using old equipment doubled that of men.

The Work Foundation's Overell pointed out there were two sides to the problem, noting that constantly having to deal with new technology and new equipment can also be a source of stress.

"Old and faulty equipment is a major cause of organizational strife, there's no question about it, but you also have to say that constant change is also, or could be, a significant cause of dissatisfaction." ***Reuters***

# PMAP Awards begins 'Harvest of the Best'

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASsociation of the Philippines (PMAP) announced that the 30th PMAP awards has received a record number of nominees for its three categories this year.

PMAP President Rico de Guzman of ACCRA Law and awards director-in-charge, Marian Lleander of Pfizer said that the heightened interest of organizations and human resources (HR) practitioners to participate in the annual search for the outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year, Employer of the Year and Personnel Program of the Year reinforces PMAP's advocacy thrusts.

With the theme *Harvest of the Best*, the yearly PMAP Awards search goes on overdrive which culminates in the formal recognition program of the winners as a major highlight of the annual conference this September.

PMAP, observing its golden anniversary this year, is the premiere association of HR professionals. "The PMAP awards has been extending public honor and recognition to individuals, enterprises and programs that bring about excellence not only in terms of verifiable business results but best people practices, too," de Guzman said.

Chairman of the PMAP Awards committee is Hernani P. Geronimo (Lapanday Foods Corporation), together with sub-committee chairmen Nanette Aguas (Bo Le Associates), for EOY; Lon Chico (Super SM Hypermarket) for PMY, and Maribel Umali (Swedish Match Philippines, Inc.) for PPY.

The other members of the PMAP Awards committee are Gil Bangalan, Vibes Cañaberal, Marijo Caronongan, Haidee Enriquez, Maryanne Flameño, Mitch Guce, Susan Lachica, Anna Lyn Lopez, Neri Mendoza, Pita Pura, Rose Silvestre, Marie Soriano, Marilyn Tomimbang, and Terry dela Vega.

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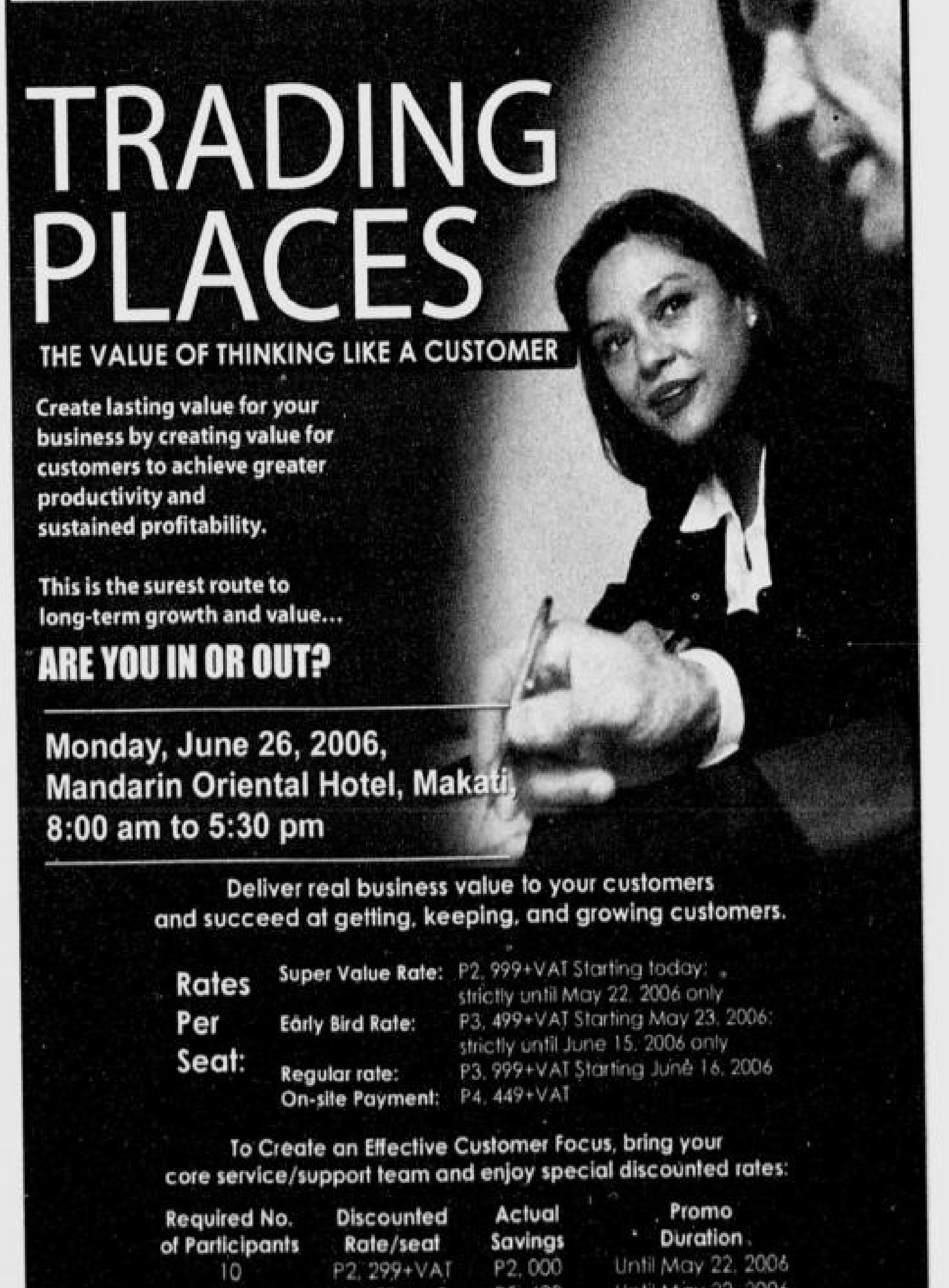

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# 'Shopaholic' lady exec wants to get out of financial mess

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

**I CONSIDER MYSELF A SUCcessful career woman, 33 years old, single, tall, slim and quite attractive. I occupy a senior brand management position and enjoy a relatively high compensation and benefits package. I drive a brand new company car with gasoline charged to my budget. My problem is: I'm always broke! I can hardly stretch my cash flow from pay day to pay day. What goes into the ATM and my checking account also goes out. I can hardly maintain the minimum balance in my bank accounts. I have great difficulty paying my two credit cards; I just pay the interest on all my purchases each month.**

**I'm considered a "fashion plate" in our company with many female employees eyeing me from head to toe everyday and expressing appreciation for my fashion sense. In management meetings, my bosses and peers "rave" about my clothes and consider me their ramp model.**

**My mother nags me about my lifestyle (i.e., my branded wardrobe, shoes and bags, my nights out with my single friends, partying, etc.) and my not having any investments.**

**ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR**

*Josie O. Santamaria*

**She keeps asking me how much I earn and how much I've saved. The truth is I have no savings at all. I've been keeping mum about my financial difficulties to my mom. She thinks I should be contributing to the household budget since she figures I'm earning so much.**

**I wish I can manage my finances but I'm already knee deep in my debts and find it difficult to have a simple lifestyle now. I have a reputation in my office to maintain. Please help me, if you can.**

**Ms Successful But Broke**

You are not helpless; you only think you are. You can get out of your financial crisis if you really want to. But this involves changing your thoughts, your values, your spending behaviors and your habits. If you refuse to change your lifestyle, your only other alternative is to continue with your current spending habits, be in debt and in bondage to your desire to live up to the image you think you have created.

If you really want to solve your financial crisis, you can. Your spending habits are within your power to control. You are single and have no children to spend on. Being an intelligent woman, perhaps you have already thought of the following solutions which I will give to you since you have asked my help.

First, change your mindset that you are helpless to do anything about your situation and that you have to maintain your image of being a "fashion plate" and ramp model to your superiors, peers and office mates. Take this fantasy out of your mind. Take away the desire for adulation and acclaim. This is driving you to spend and to acquire expensive things in order to create an expensive image.

Second, stop buying clothes, shoes, bags, accessories, etc. Make do with what you have now. Be an expert in mix-and-match styling. You can be smart looking and be power-dressed without adding to your current wardrobe. Stop thinking that your peers and office mates expect you to dress like a ramp model in the office.

Third, do away with your credit cards. Have only one, if you must. And keep this and your ATM cards at home. Remove them from your wallet; otherwise, the temptation to use them will become difficult to resist.

Fourth, make a budget of your monthly, weekly and daily expenses. Stick only to what is essential. Compute how much cash you need each day, each week and each month for your meals, and necessary expenses. If you are driving a company car with free gasoline, what other things do you need to spend on? Put only enough cash in your wallet that you will need to spend for the day. Spend cash; this way, you will discourage yourself from being acquisitive. Limit your nights out to Fridays only and bring only the amount of cash that you can reasonably spend that night. Here's a tip: before you go out, put something into your stomach so that your hunger will not cause you to order more food than you can afford to spend on.

Fifth, pay and liquidate your obligations on your credit cards. And don't use even the one you have until you have liquidated your obligations.

Sixth, balance your checkbook. Record all the checks you issue out versus the amount deposited. Reconcile your check book balances with the bank statements you receive every month to be sure that deposits and withdrawals are accurate.

Seventh, resist window shopping because you will only be whetting your appetite. Resist going to the malls, bazaars or stores advertising big sales. If you don't need something, it is expensive. Don't stock up on items you think you might need later on to give as gifts to special people.

And, yes, you must:

1. Set aside money to pay your credit cards. Set this as your goal every pay day; save 25 percent to 50 percent of your net earnings to pay your credit obligations. Once paid, stop using your credit card or use one credit card frugally.

2. Invest another 25 percent of your earnings on investments you can't withdraw. Ask your bank about this.

3. Contribute to your mother's household budget. Imagine how much you are saving in apartment rental, electricity, water and meals. Discuss with your mother what you can give so that it will make a difference in the household budget and be of help to her.

4. Tithe on your income because a portion of your earnings belongs to God to be used to spread His kingdom. Don't scrimp on this.

*(Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems, Inc. Visit the website of her company, Career Systems Inc. at* www.careersystems.com.ph. *to know what these articles are that might interest you.)*

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## *Making a difference*

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD**

ONCE, IN MY SEMINARY DAYS, I ATE SUPPER WITH MY superior, and as he finished his soup he remarked, "The cook must be in love." I curiously asked him what he meant by his words. He said that the soup was exceptionally delicious; he surmised that the cook must have been inspired in preparing it. He said further that "being in love or loving someone makes a difference in one's life and work." I believe that most of us would agree that love could make a great difference also in our world of work.

The difference love makes in one's work, however, varies according to the kind of love one has. One who works with a "sensual and selfish love"—an attraction for physical, material and bodily satisfaction for oneself—would work for money and what money can buy. His performance would be a little better than that of someone who is forced to work as a punishment or due to certain circumstances. Those, however, who work with a "personal love"—care and affection for persons and people (family, friends, and other loved ones)—would more likely show greater dedication, commitment and sacrifice in their jobs than those who would consider money and things more valuable than persons.

The greatest impact love can make in the workplace would be seen when everyone believes and accepts the commandment of Jesus to "love one another as I love you" as the motive in doing one's work. The worker who "lays down his life" in his job—sacrificing himself completely for others and for God in faithfully doing his job—will make the workplace and consequently the society a better place to live in. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@syinet.net)

## REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

**Gospel - John 15: 9-17**

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

## *A win-win-win situation*

**By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS**

WHY DO PEOPLE SAY THERE IS NO PLACE FOR LOVE where you work? And yet, people fall in love in the workplace, sometimes illicitly at that. Some people believe that love inspires a worker, so (they ask) why should anyone ban love in the workplace? They would further claim that a workplace without an air of romance—that's all hard work and discipline—would be boring and tiresome, an absolute drudgery that would sap the life out of any worker.

If "discipline" and "hard work" evoke images of forced labor in prison camps, it is because these words are not deeply understood. The truth is, discipline and hard work are the flowering of true love. True love is caring for yourself, for your loved one, and for others—all in one sweep. Example: a married man and a single woman in an office romance carry on in total disregard of what their coworkers might think or feel. They're in love, they're happy, but is it true love or just an ego trip? When you love truly, you realize it's not enough that you and your loved one be happy; whether you like it or not you have an audience who would be affected by your love affair. True love recognizes the interconnectedness of all persons; thus a wrongdoing—an ego trip—is bound to hurt not just one or two but all. If the love is true, the married guy would care about what the girl's parents and their coworkers would say and so control himself accordingly. Likewise, the single girl would empathize with the man's wife and disengage herself from him.

True love blooms into self-discipline and a resolve to focus on work instead of each other, ending in a win-win-win situation that frees their audience from gossip and distractions at work. When at work you aim for the good of all, you love as Jesus loves; discipline and hard work become a breeze, resulting in order and abundance. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

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# 'I have an uncertain future!'

**By Tita Datu Puangco**

**I AM 30 YEARS OLD NOW, A Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree-holder. I have been jobless since February this year. My problem is, whenever I go for interviews and examinations, I always get a disappointing response said in a polite manner "Okay, we'll just call you." And somehow these words meant I did not get the job. Every time I encounter these rough situations, I prepare myself not to show what I really feel inside but to respond positively "Okay, sir/ma'am, thank you." Then, with hurt pride, I wallow in self-pity because I think I am qualified for the vacant positions offered. I am determined also to pass all sorts of requirements and challenges.**

**I am still encouraging myself to keep on going over these mountains or difficulties and I do believe there is Someone up there who knows what is best for me. I know that in my journey seeking a job, there are good Samaritans who would lend their ears and understand my needs.**

**It is my great honor that I have found your column. Wishing you all the best and I am expecting your words of encouragement. Once again, thank you and God bless us all!**

**Rough Sailing**

Thank you for getting the courage to write this letter. I can empathize with your situation. In our country, we have millions of people out of work and we can imagine how tough competition is for jobs. You have to find ways to differentiate yourself above the crowd to be able to land a cherished job.

Let me begin by sharing with you the ideal concept of work. It is a mindset that is important for all job seekers to possess, so that one gives work its proper importance. Pope

*Advice* FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Benedict VI in his recent homily said, "Work is of fundamental importance to the fulfillment of the human being and to the development of society. Thus, it must always be organized and carried out with full respect for human dignity and must always serve the common good. At the same time, it is indispensable that people do not allow themselves to be enslaved by work or idolize it, claiming to find in it the ultimate and definitive meaning of life."

Yes, work is important for us to live and fulfill ourselves but we cannot "be enslaved by it or idolize it." While it is normal to get a sense of being rejected and unwanted as interviewers do not take a second glance at your application, you have to bear in mind that the you carry the best title of "child of God" and His love for you continues even more if you offer to Him the sufferings you encounter in trying to get a job.

But now let us move to the practical side. Here are some steps you can take. One is to find out exactly what went wrong with your past applications. Think back and see what went wrong. I asked a recruitment expert friend of mine what are the typical turnoffs when assessing people for jobs. He mentioned that from the beginning, the person has to create a good impression. The applicant has to be neatly groomed, simply dressed and well-combed, and properly deodorized (the toughest thing is spending time with a person with excessive perspiration and foul smell). He or she must project self-confidence and enthusiasm and must know how to listen and answer questions.

My friend also mentioned that a basic qualification is the ability to write and speak grammatically correct English. Avoid speaking "Taglish," either speak in pure English or pure

WE'LL JUST CALL YOU
ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Filipino. For example, I noted from your letter that you have the English vocabulary but you would need additional lessons in grammar and oral fluency. Please note the improvements I made on your letter.

Then, another basic requirement is proficiency in basic computer software such as Microsoft Word, Powerpoint and Excel. He likewise mentioned a neatly prepared resumé with a sharp picture and no smudges on the paper. The resumé must articulate clearly not just your academic background but practical skills that you can bring to the job. You might want to put your resumé in a plastic binder that will make it stand out in a stack of resumés.

Then, why not explore entrepreneurship, and widen your goal from a job to a means of livelihood. This is clearly the age of entrepreneurship. Look for a need that people are willing to pay for and put yourself in business. This is a "blue ocean strategy" called by Cham Kim and Renee Mauborgne, in their book of the same title which discussed how companies and individuals can compete. Why compete in the "red oceans" of jobs, crowded, fighting head on with millions of applicants, when there is uncontested space in entrepreneurship.

For many college graduates who cannot find work, entrepreneurship may be the better choice. You can see the growing popularity of entrepreneurship as a college course. Your present college degree is good preparation for entrepreneurship. Most people would complain they have no capital and ask where they can possibly get startup money. Look around you, so many micro-credit facilities exist. What is important is the willingness to start small and slowly grow your business. Ask any rural banker engaged in micro-credit and he or she can regale you with stories of small and successful entrepreneurs who, through hard and smart work, have grown. Meanwhile take care of yourself and God bless!

*(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. E-mail feedback to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902. For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

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# Low status, job insecurity feed workers' depression

NEW YORK—BEING LOW on the totem pole at the workplace increases the risk that a woman will develop symptoms of severe depression, a new study from Denmark shows.

And while low workplace status doesn't appear to affect men's depression risk, job insecurity does—men who reported feeling that their jobs were in danger were twice as likely to become depressed.

Dr. Reiner Rugulies of the National Institute of Occupational Health in Copenhagen said he and his colleagues were surprised by the gender difference in the findings, which they report in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

Rugulies and his team surveyed 4,133 men and women on symptoms of depression and factors in the workplace in 1995, and then resurveyed them in 2000. Because the study was prospective, and the researchers were able to use statistical techniques to adjust for other factors that could influence depression risk, Rugulies said, he and his team are fairly certain that the findings show a cause-and-effect link.

They found that women who reported having low influence at work—meaning they had little power to regulate their work pace, involvement in planning work, or information on decisions affecting their workplace—were more than twice as likely to develop severe depressive symptoms over the five-year period.

Those who reported low supervisor support, meaning they said that they "usually not" or "never" received support and encouragement from their supervisors, also were at two-fold increased risk of severe depression.

Among men, job insecurity—defined as being worried about becoming unemployed, transferred against their will, laid off because of new technology, or having a hard time finding another job if they lost their current one—doubled depression risk, but none of the other factors had an effect.

Both workload and coworker support appeared to play no role in the risk of depression for men or women.

Depression is believed to be due to an interaction between a person's individual vulnerabilities and environmental factors, Rugulies noted. The work environment "might be one important part which interacts with other factors."

*Source: American Journal of Epidemiology, May 15, 2006.*

***Reuters***

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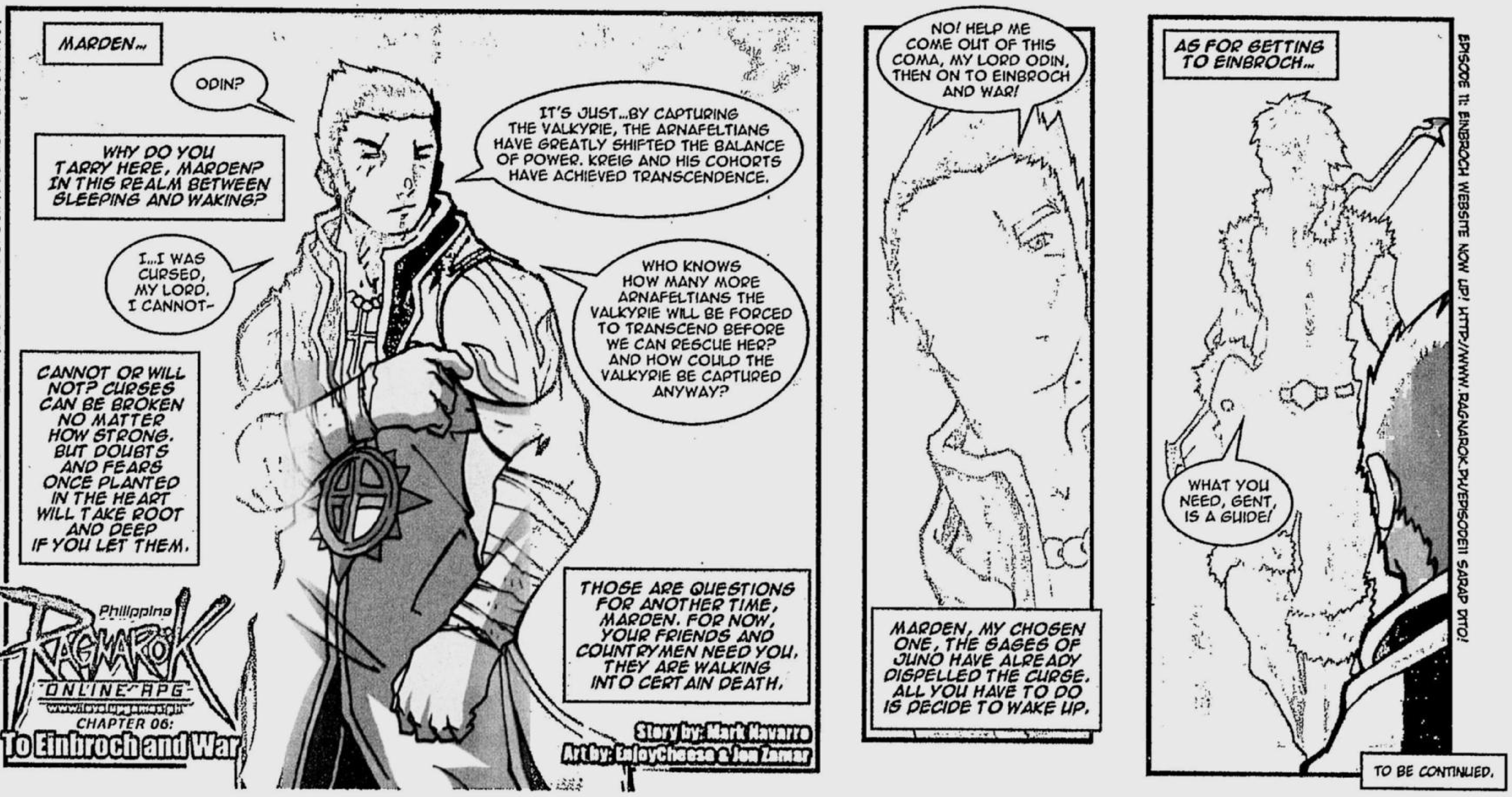
## RAGNAROK

**BY LEVEL UP GAMES**


MARDEN...
ODIN?
WHY DO YOU TARRY HERE, MARDEN? IN THIS REALM BETWEEN SLEEPING AND WAKING?
IT'S JUST...BY CAPTURING THE VALKYRIE, THE ARNAFELTIANS HAVE GREATLY SHIFTED THE BALANCE OF POWER. KREIG AND HIS COHORTS HAVE ACHIEVED TRANSCENDENCE.
I...I WAS CURSED, MY LORD. I CANNOT-
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE ARNAFELTIANS THE VALKYRIE WILL BE FORCED TO TRANSCEND BEFORE WE CAN RESCUE HER? AND HOW COULD THE VALKYRIE BE CAPTURED ANYWAY?
CANNOT OR WILL NOT? CURSES CAN BE BROKEN NO MATTER HOW STRONG. BUT DOUBTS AND FEARS ONCE PLANTED IN THE HEART WILL TAKE ROOT AND DEEP IF YOU LET THEM.
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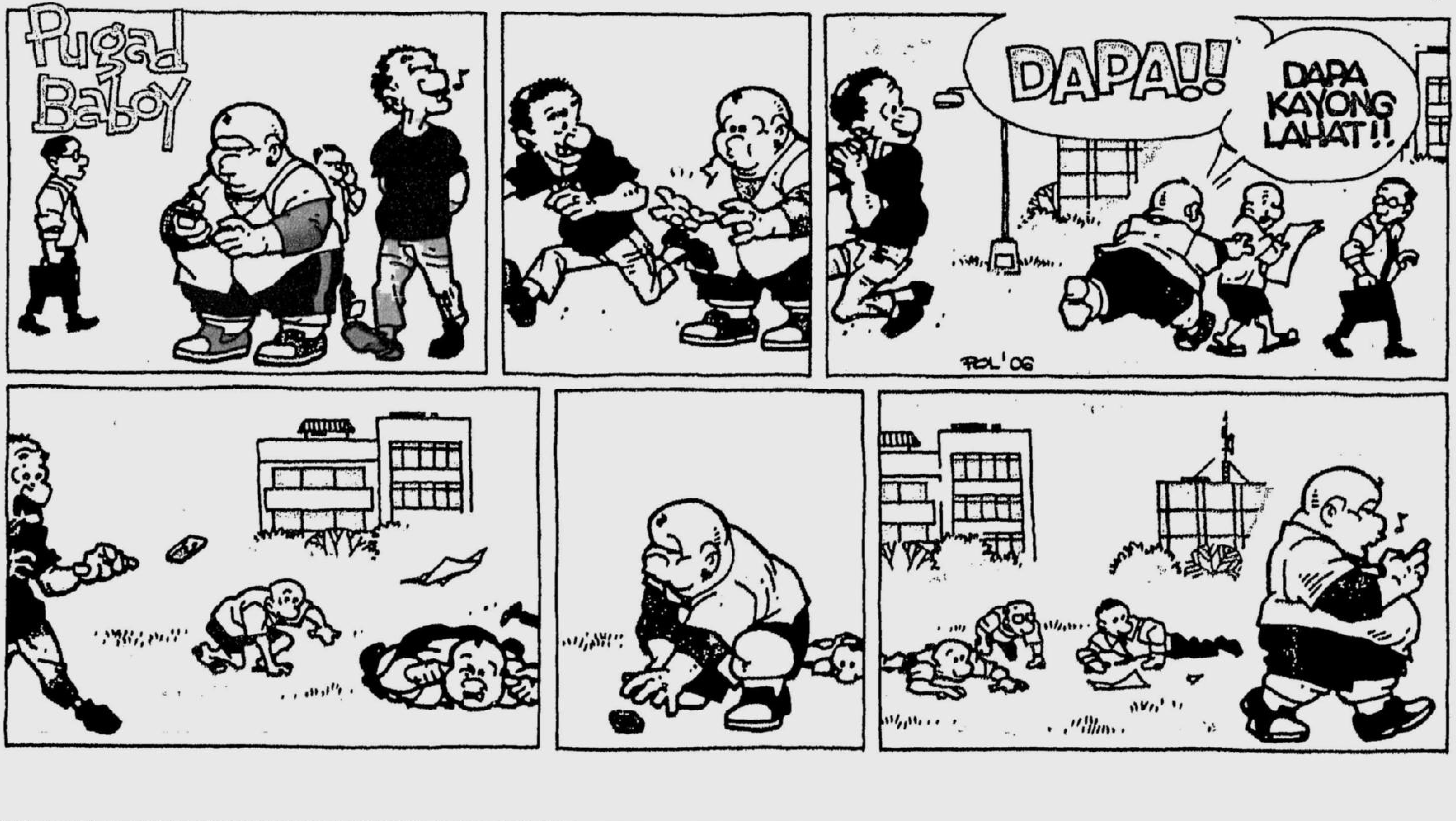
## PUGAD BABOY

**BY POL MEDINA JR.**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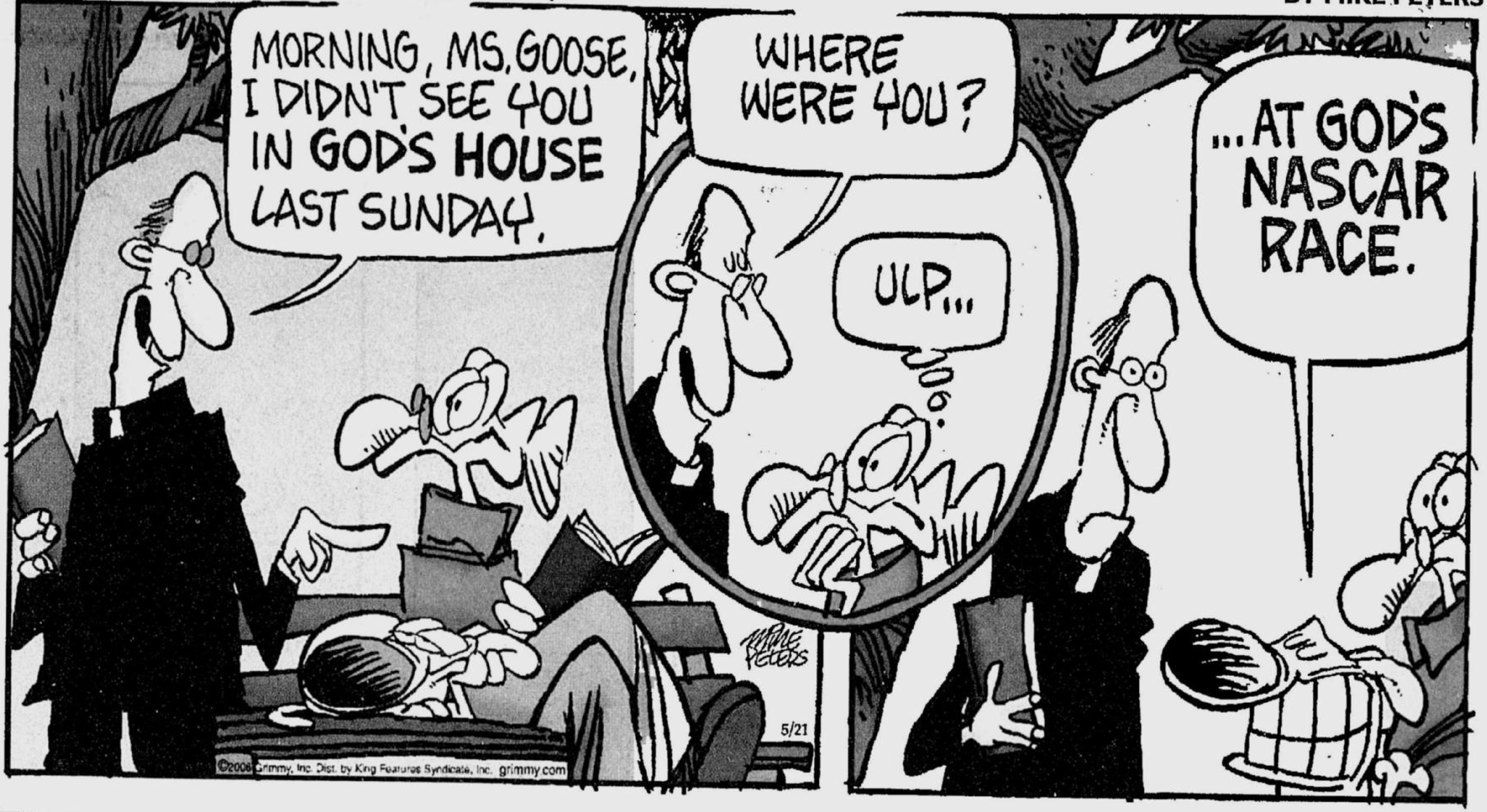
DAPA KAYONG LAHAT!!
POL '06

## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MORNING, MS. GOOSE, I DIDN'T SEE YOU IN GOD'S HOUSE LAST SUNDAY.
WHERE WERE YOU?
ULP...
...AT GOD'S NASCAR RACE.
MIKE PETERS
5/21
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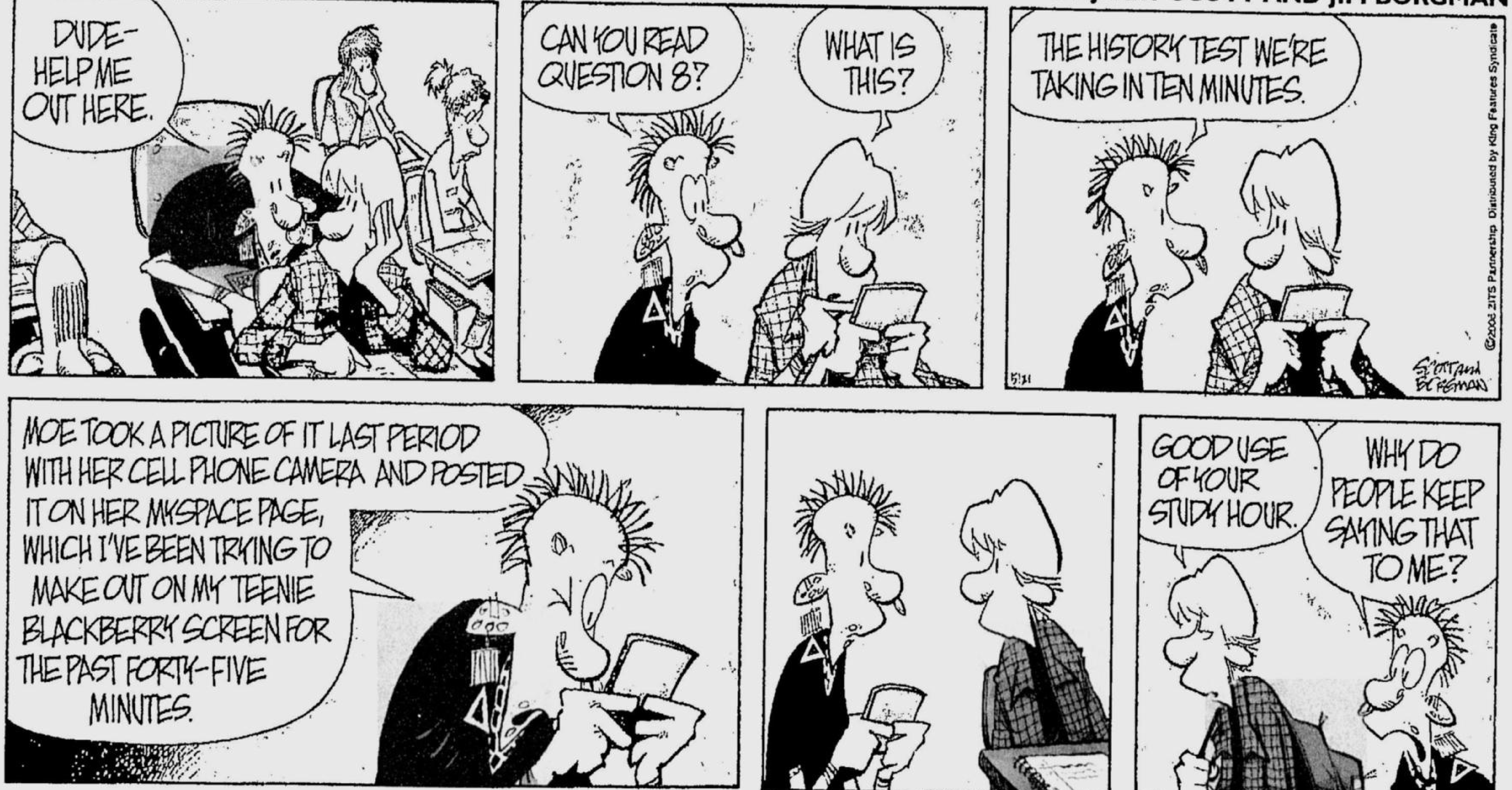
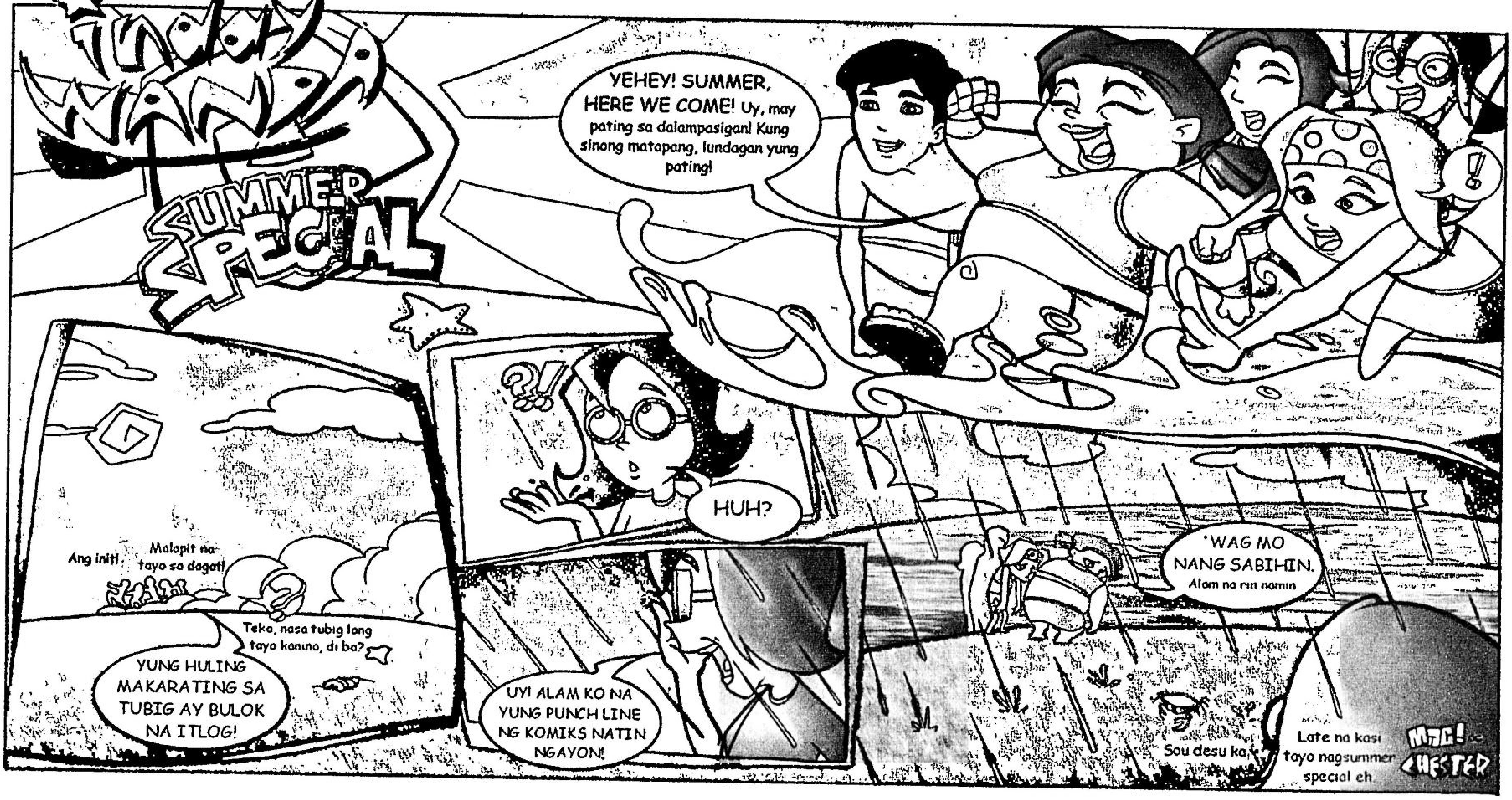
## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


DUDE— HELP ME OUT HERE.
CAN YOU READ QUESTION 8?
WHAT IS THIS?
THE HISTORY TEST WE'RE TAKING IN TEN MINUTES.
5/21
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
©2006 ZITS Partnership Distributed by King Features Syndicate
MOE TOOK A PICTURE OF IT LAST PERIOD WITH HER CELL PHONE CAMERA AND POSTED IT ON HER MYSPACE PAGE, WHICH I'VE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE OUT ON MY TEENIE BLACKBERRY SCREEN FOR THE PAST FORTY-FIVE MINUTES.
GOOD USE OF YOUR STUDY HOUR.
WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP SAYING THAT TO ME?

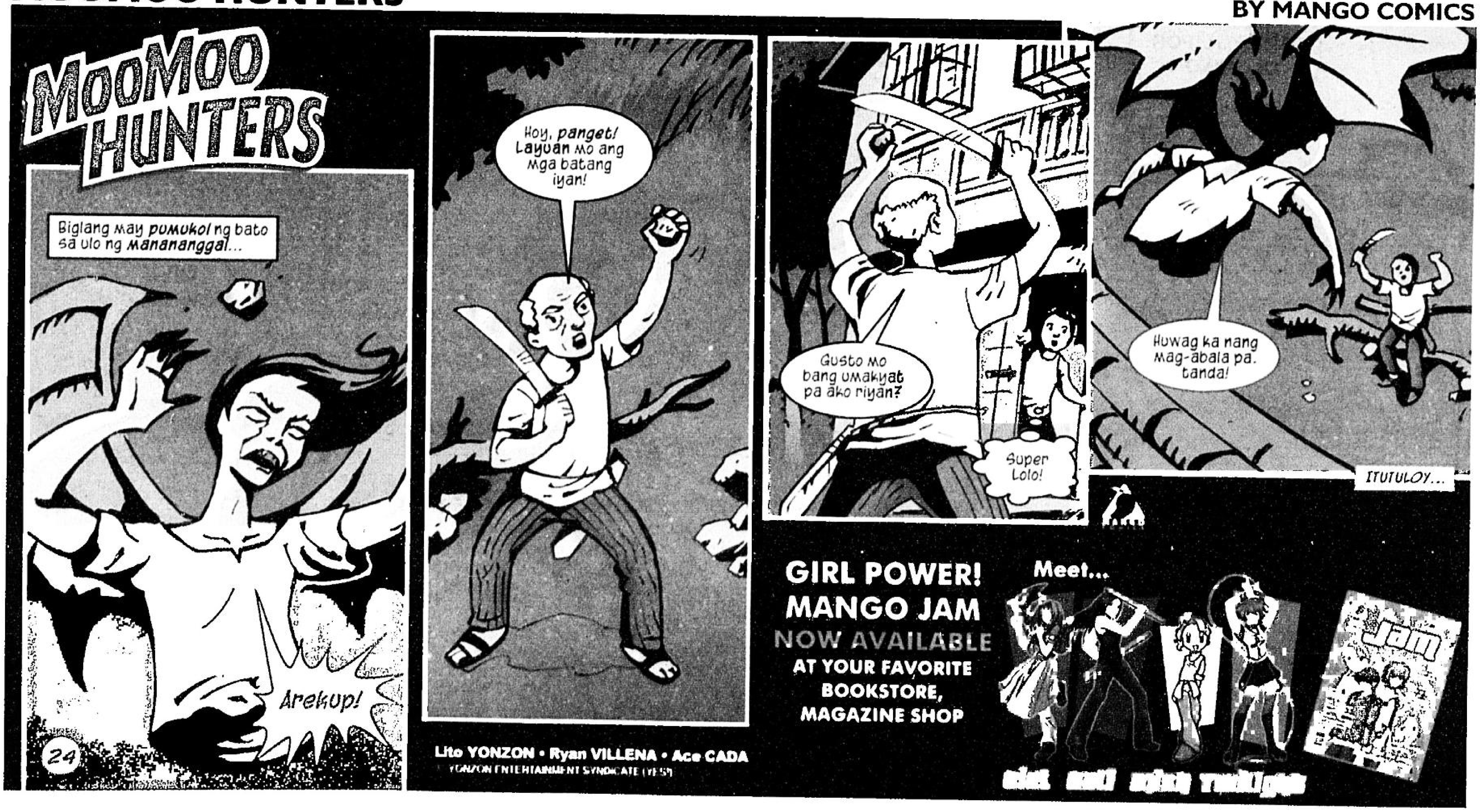
## INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
SUMMER SPECIAL
YEHEY! SUMMER, HERE WE COME! Uy, may pating sa dalampasigan! Kung sinong matapang, lundagan yung pating!
!
?!
HUH?
Ang init!
Malapit na tayo sa dagat!
Teka, nasa tubig lang tayo kanina, di ba?
YUNG HULING MAKARATING SA TUBIG AY BULOK NA ITLOG!
UY! ALAM KO NA YUNG PUNCH LINE NG KOMIKS NATIN NGAYON!
'WAG MO NANG SABIHIN. Alam na rin namin
Sou desu ka
Late na kasi tayo nagsummer special eh.
MAG! CHESTER

## MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS

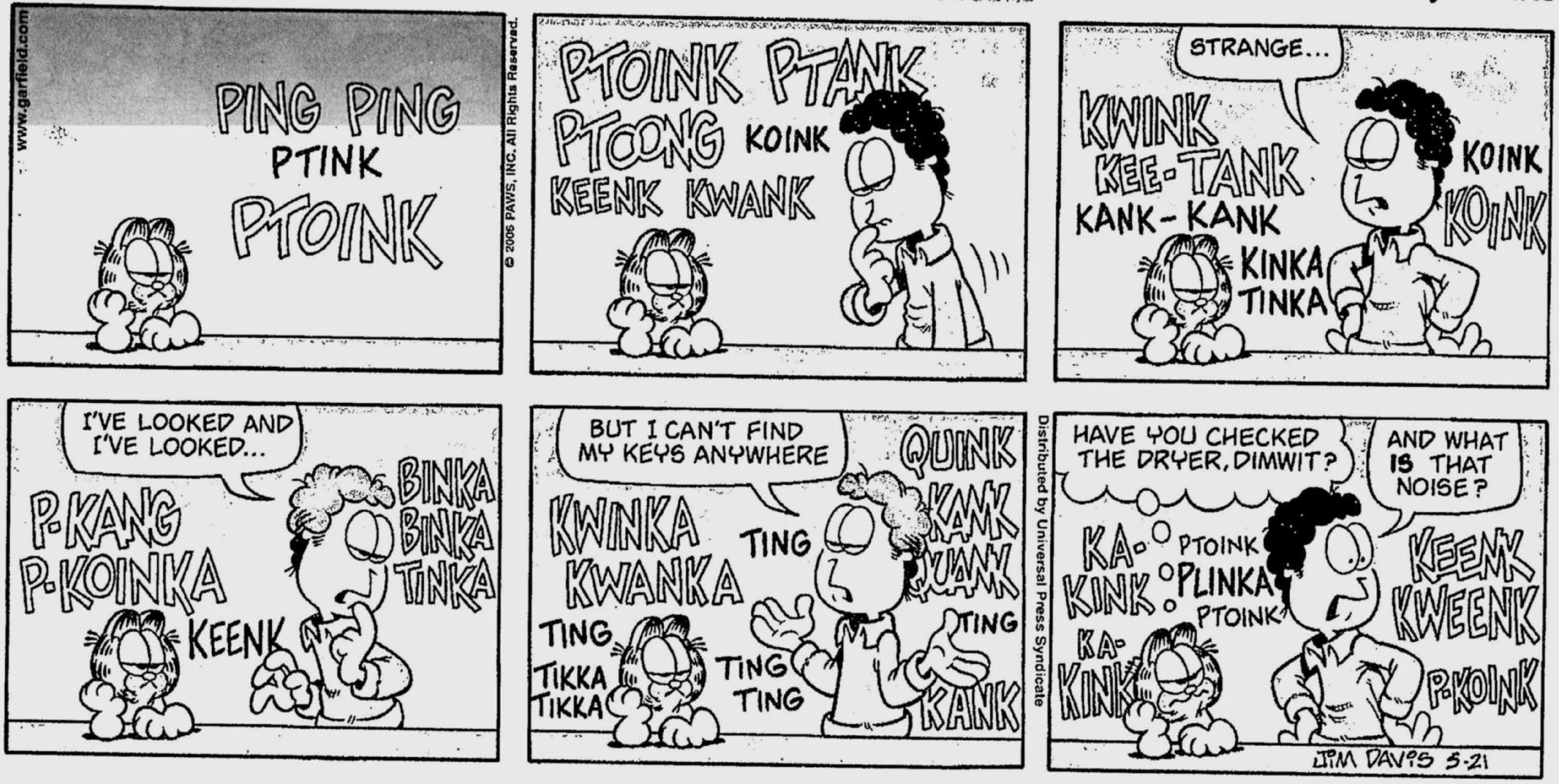

MooMoo HUNTERS
Biglang may pumukol ng bato sa ulo ng Manananggal...
Arekup!
24
Hoy, panget! Layuan mo ang mga batang iyan!
Gusto mo bang umakyat pa ako riyan?
Super Lolo!
Huwag ka nang mag-abala pa. tanda!
ITUTULOY...

Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)

GIRL POWER!
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP
Meet...
Jam

## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


PING PING
PTINK
PTOINK
PTOINK PTANK
PTOONG KOINK
KEENK KWANK
STRANGE...
KWINK
KEE-TANK
KANK-KANK
KINKA
TINKA
KOINK
KOINK
I'VE LOOKED AND I'VE LOOKED...
P-KANG
P-KOINKA
KEENK
BINKA
BINKA
TINKA
BUT I CAN'T FIND MY KEYS ANYWHERE
KWINKA
KWANKA
TING
TING
TIKKA
TIKKA
TING
TING
QUINK
KANK
QUANK
TING
KANK
HAVE YOU CHECKED THE DRYER, DIMWIT?
AND WHAT **IS** THAT NOISE?
KA-
KINK
PTOINK
PLINKA
PTOINK
KA-
KINK
KEENK
KWEENK
P-KOINK
JIM DAVIS 5-21

www.garfield.com

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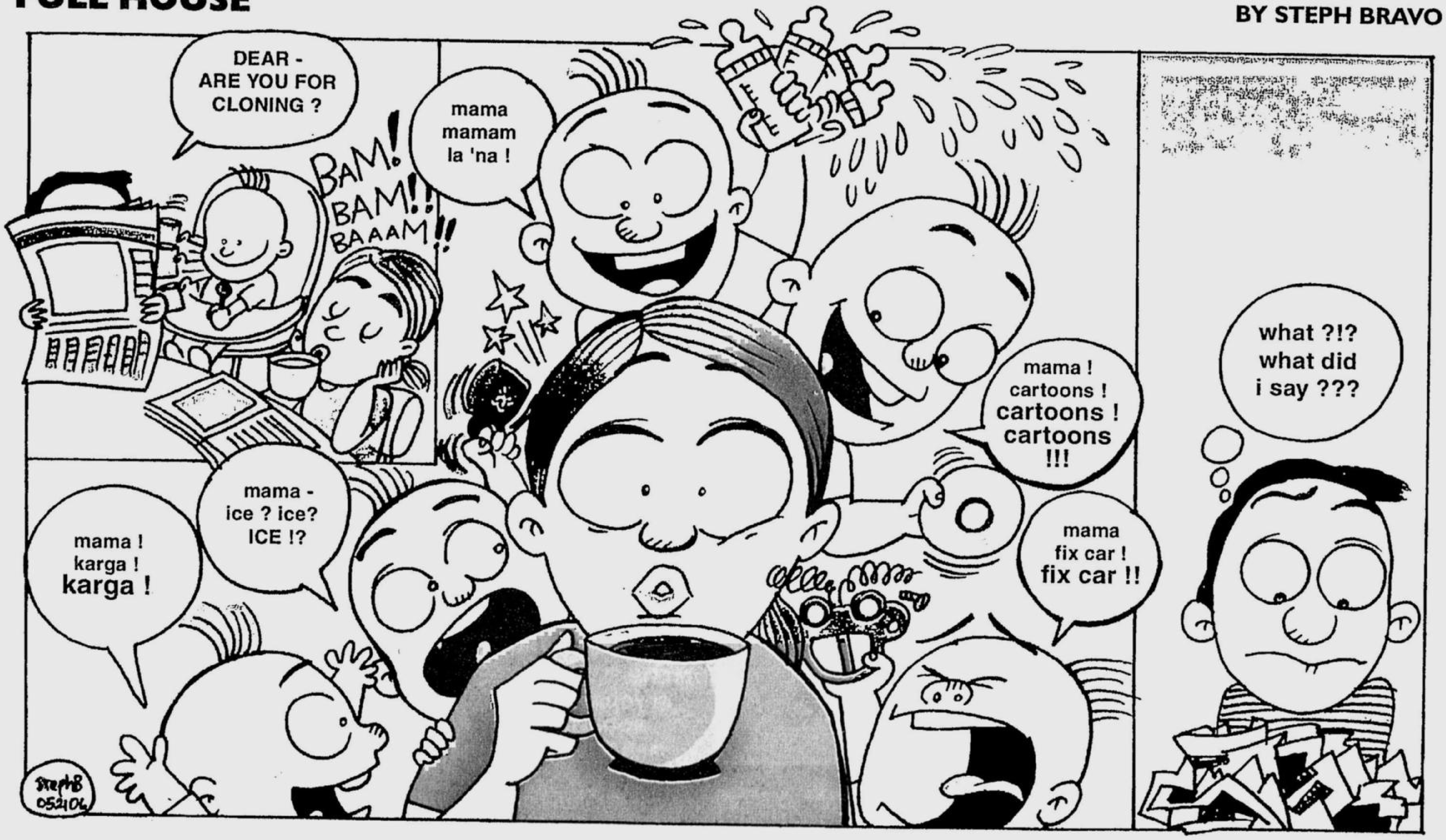
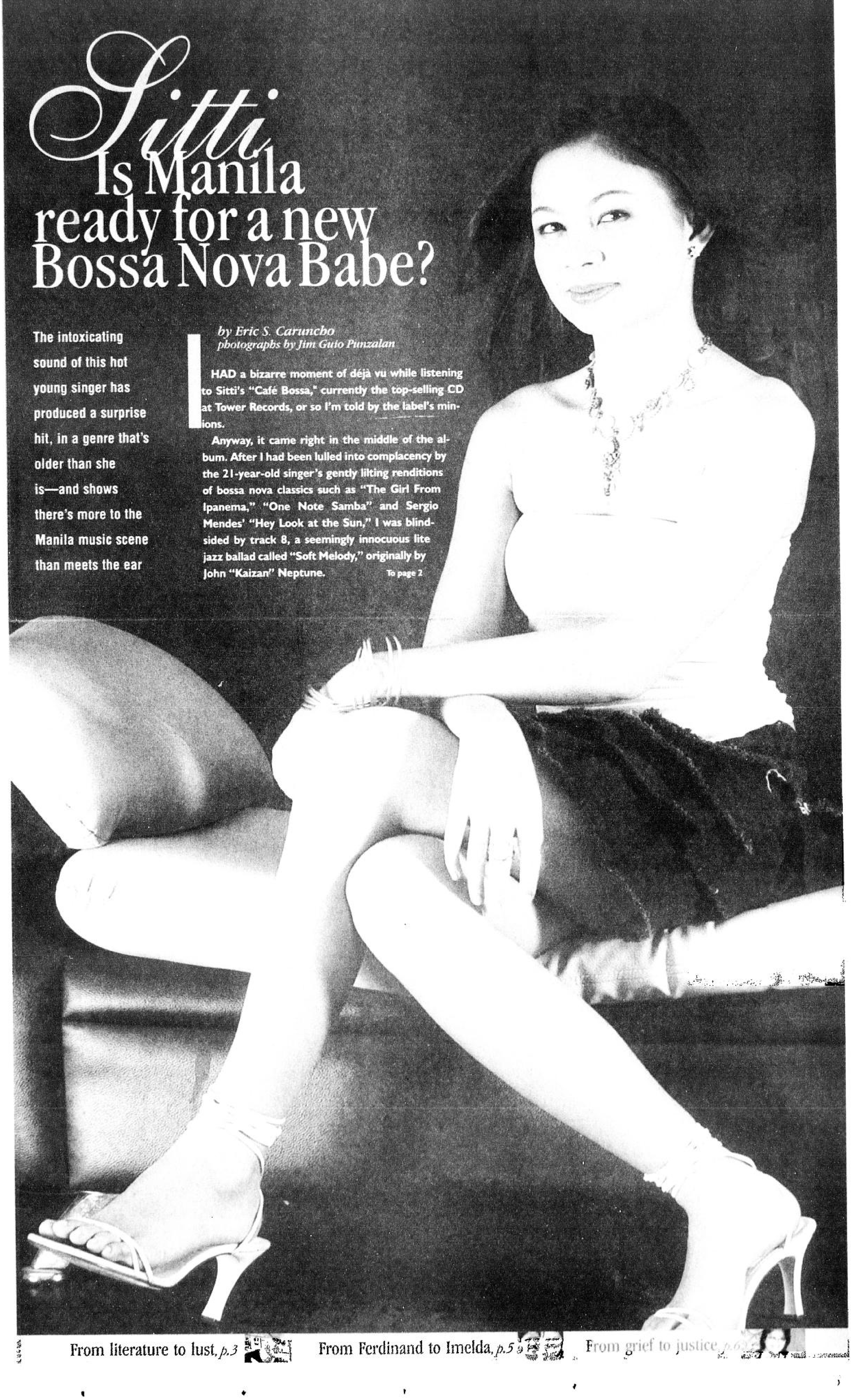
## FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


DEAR -
ARE YOU FOR
CLONING ?
BAM!
BAM!!
BAAAM!!
mama
mamam
la 'na !
mama !
cartoons !
cartoons !
cartoons
!!!
what ?!?
what did
i say ???
mama !
karga !
karga !
mama -
ice ? ice?
ICE !?
mama
fix car !
fix car !!
stephB
052106

May 21, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



# *Sitti*
# Is Manila ready for a new Bossa Nova Babe?

**The intoxicating sound of this hot young singer has produced a surprise hit, in a genre that's older than she is—and shows there's more to the Manila music scene than meets the ear**

*by Eric S. Caruncho*
*photographs by Jim Guio Punzalan*

I HAD a bizarre moment of déjà vu while listening to Sitti's "Café Bossa," currently the top-selling CD at Tower Records, or so I'm told by the label's minions.

Anyway, it came right in the middle of the album. After I had been lulled into complacency by the 21-year-old singer's gently lilting renditions of bossa nova classics such as "The Girl From Ipanema," "One Note Samba" and Sergio Mendes' "Hey Look at the Sun," I was blindsided by track 8, a seemingly innocuous lite jazz ballad called "Soft Melody," originally by John "Kaizan" Neptune.

To page 2

From literature to lust, *p.3*

From Ferdinand to Imelda, *p.5*

From grief to justice, *p.6*

Sitti lite: "I'm more at ease singing these songs than the MTV stuff"

# Sitti...*from page 1*

Whoa! I said to myself as I ripped the headphones off, and it all came rushing in like a bad acid flashback. Now there's a blast from the past.

The only time I've ever really nodded out at a concert—despite the prodigious consumption, in my younger days, of never-mind-what—was at a John "Kaizan" Neptune gig at the PICC.

Or was it the Folk Arts? Memory fails. It was sometime during that lost period between the "lifting" of martial law and the assassination of Ninoy Aquino.

Nowadays, of course, everyone claims to have been into punk rock during those years. Any self-respecting music buff would sooner admit to having carnal relations with poultry than own up to listening to the elevator jazz of Michael Franks and David Benoit. Truth be told, back then, unless you had access to imports, it was either this stuff, or Styx and Kansas and Rod Stewart in his 'disco' phase (which was worse, who could say?)

Basically, John Kaizan played lite fusion jazz, the kind of music they pipe in while irrigating your colon or sucking out the subcutaneous fat from your abdomen. But his instrument was the *shakuhachi,* the traditional Japanese bamboo flute heard on many a Kurosawa movie soundtrack. The combination of Neptune's spare, haunting Japanese melodies and probably too many pre-concert Pepe Lopez aperitifs soon had me in the blissful arms of Morpheus. But I was rudely jarred from this Zen-like trance by the loud applause that greeted the first few bars of "Soft Melody," Neptune's then-current—and if truth be told, only—radio hit.

## Lost period

And here it was again, a song I hadn't heard in more than 20 years, coming back like a bad penny. After I regained my composure and put the headphones on, I discovered a couple more reminders of that lost period before MTV, before CD even: covers of Bong Peñera's late-'70s hit "Samba Song" (an artifact from an earlier bossa nova revival), the aforementioned Michael Franks' "The Lady Wants To Know" and Flora Purim's "Bridges," a song popular in my last year of college.

Like I said, bizarre.

Even stranger is the fact that the singer hadn't even been born yet when these songs were on the radio.

"I started singing professionally in lounges when I was 16, when I was just starting college," says Sitti Katrina Navarro Baiddin, who prefers to go by her singular first name. "I was singing standards, lounge music and usually the songs being requested were from that period, the 1950s and 1960s—'Someone to Watch Over Me,' 'The Nearness of You,' 'The Way You Look Tonight.' That's when I found out that I'm more relaxed singing those songs than the MTV generation stuff, pop and R&B."

Born in 1984, Sitti's exotic name, and perhaps some of her dusky good looks, come from her father, a Muslim from Sulu, whom she never got to know because her parents split up while she was very young.

That's about as far as exotica goes. In all other respects, Sitti's upbringing is typically Filipino: She was raised a Catholic by her mother and grandparents, grew up in the small town atmosphere of Las Piñas, and attended the same school—St. Francis of Assisi—for her elementary and high school.

"I'm mature for my age," she says. "I guess I just took responsibilities seriously. I just wanted my mom and my *lola* to be proud of me. I was such a good girl. I studied hard. I had a normal college life minus the parties. In college, I wasn't able to hang out that much. I haven't gotten drunk yet. Boyfriends? I've had one. I don't have any now. I initiated the break-up because I wanted more time for myself, for singing and all the stuff I wanted to do. I just thought I could achieve more. Basically, I'm a homebody—I go out to watch movies and buy books."

One thing, though: Sitti could always sing. As a child, her grandmother would drag her to her mahjong sessions to provide the entertainment, and she sang with the church choir.

It was her choirmaster, Romy San Mateo, who first spotted her potential, and it was he who encouraged her to try singing professionally after she graduated from high school. It turned out to be good advice, because Sitti was able to support herself through college by singing at bars and lounges, and even helped out with the family expenses.

In 2001, Sitti enrolled at the University of the Philippines to study Business Economics.

"It was my grandfather who suggested that course," she says. "If I had known this was going to happen, I might have taken up music instead."

Sitti auditioned for the Stonehouse, a music lounge, and was immediately spotted and signed by her current manager. She was soon juggling school and singing engagements.

"Thankfully I was able to graduate on time last year," she says. "There was a time when we had gigs five times a week and I couldn't get up in the morning. I had to drop out of half of my subjects."

Just before she graduated, however, her manager signed her up to join "MTV Supastar," a talent search contest/reality show on the music channel. As one of the contest winners, Sitti was within striking distance of a major label record deal, especially since Warner Music Philippines was one of the sponsors of the show. What clinched it was the demo she had recorded for auditions, which contained several bossa nova numbers she had been performing regularly at her club dates.

## Live feel

The result was "Café Bossa," released earlier this year. The album, which was arranged by Chito Servanez, was recorded with the Hotspot Jazz Band, the house band at the Hyatt and Casino Manila with whom Sitti had been performing for a year. In order to simulate a live "feel" (and maybe save a few bucks), the tracks were recorded at the Stonehouse, with Sitti doing the vocals in the men's room/isolation booth.

Why bossa nova? Why not? The Brazilian beat has been imbedded in pop music's DNA ever since it first caught international attention in the 1950s with the French film "Black Orpheus."

Born in the white, middle-class cafes of Rio, bossa nova (roughly translated as "the new thing") was a cooler, more laid-back variant of the more populist samba associated with the Carnival. In the '60s, it miscegenated with American jazz, and the cool shot downed round the world was "The Girl From Ipanema," written by bossa founding father Antonio Carlos Jobim and recorded by Stan Getz with Joao Gilberto. Later Gilberto's wife Astrud would lull millions with her breathily morose ballads, and the masses would "blame it on the bossa nova," as a popular song went.

Even the Chairman of the Board got into the act, recording the landmark "Francis Albert Sinatra and Antonio Carlos Jobim" album in the mid-Sixties, with arrangements by none other than recent Manila visitor Eumir Deodato. Another recent Manila visitor, Sergio Mendes, made Brazilian music a truly global pop franchise with his enduring, four-decade ensemble (first recording as Brasil '65, last heard as Brasil 2005).

Bossa nova has never really gone away. The remarkable thing is how it manages to be both hip and square at the same time. "The Girl From Ipanema" and "One Note Samba" are elevator music staples, and nothing says kitsch as well as the "Bossa Nova" button on a vintage Seventies Rhythm Box. It's no mystery why the Austin Powers theme is Quincy Jones' "Big Band Bossa Nova," redolent as it is with late '60s cheese.

At the same time, hipsters as diverse as David Byrne, Beck and the ultra-trendy pop curators from Tokyo's Shibuya district, among them Pizzicato 5 and the man known as the Fantastic Plastic Machine, have been seduced by bossa's sensuous lilt. Japan has even produced a bona fide international bossa star in Lisa Ono (presumably no relation to Yoko). Today bossa has mutated to embrace electronic dance music, but it's still the same enduring rhythm.

Closer to home, Filipino bands have always been receptive to Latin beats. In the mid-'70s pianist Bong Peñera initiated the first bossa revival with his band Batucada, recording a brace of albums before fading into obscurity. Significantly, he wrote several bossa tunes in Tagalog, one of which—"Samba Song"—surfaces on Sitti's debut. It's one of those intergenerational passing-the-baton moments, though Sitti was still years away from even becoming a gleam in her mother's eye when Bong Peñera was playing the Pension Filipino.

## Bouncy beat

"I'm very at ease with it," says Sitti when asked how she relates to music from before her time. "I don't know, it's very refreshing. Although when you look closely at the lyrics, especially the Portuguese ones, they're very emotionally laden. They hide it with a bouncy beat and swaying rhythm.

"We're introducing a new genre to people, especially the younger generation," she says. "When I was singing standards, we were limited to older audiences, but now with the album we've branched out to the MTV generation."

A generation to whose ears "Girl From Ipanema" and "One Note Samba" still sound fresh, judging from the audience response to the album. After less than four months, the album has gone gold, reports Sitti. It may not sound like much, but these days, when hardly anyone buys CDs anymore, gold is more than respectable.

"Café Bossa" has also garnered airplay in several FM stations, its mellow grooves managing to cross over different radio formats, from lite jazz to mellow ballad to OPM, the last via the single "*Para Sa Akin,*" the only original song on an otherwise all-covers album.

"It's never been recorded before," says Sitti. "It's a song I can own. We also did a video for it. We shot it in Escolta. The funny thing is, while we were shooting it the whole day, there were actually women inhaling rugby around, and they were singing along to the song crazily."

Obviously, rugby girls know a hit when they hear one. Q

---

*For more on Sitti, check out www.stonehouse1.multiply.com, sitti@yahoogroups.com and http://sitti.proboards101.com.*

## Follow

*for Kathy Taylor*

1. W/ mouth to mic, allow your face to assume the shade of roses,
take the texture of marmalade shaving in the shower.

2. Listen: Someone turns off the lamp in the bedroom of your head
& makes love to the snake slithering in your ear.

3. Let them think you cannot hear them—
& they are wrong, these animals.

4. Fuck the fact it's your song they bang to,
it's your pelvis cradles them at night
when they dream of dynamite.

5. But remember: You cannot dare me to die now,
not when green is the shadow of redness
& tomorrow is but an old aperitif.

6. Also: You cannot eat the soapsuds crawling out of your nails
nor can you give an old beast new names—e.g. Krolithikah,
pre-Babel nomenclature in the unintelligible tradition of dreams.

7. Jump (keep jumping), & your breasts jump along with you. Beautiful.

8. Shout DADA with me—

9. —then ask me to follow the water.

**Angelo V. Suárez**

Sunday Inquirer Magazine May 21, 2006
Vol. 20 No. 12 ISSN 0116 - 232X

| | |
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**ERRATUM:** *In last issue's story "This super stylist hit the ground running—and is still running at full speed" by Joy Rojas (SIM, 14 May 2006, page 6), the photograph of Chechel Joson was mistakenly credited to Jun de Leon. The photograph was taken by RONNIE SALVACION. SIM regrets the error*

MARVEE CELI-BONOOAN

**The Writer's Life**

*by Ruel S. De Vera*

# Laying it on the line for lit and lust

**Think you have an interesting job? Vanni de Sequera sees no disconnect as the editor of literary magazine Story Philippines and the forthcoming sexy men's magazine Maxim Philippines**

**NOW, this qualifies as extreme publishing. Vanni de Sequera has two day jobs that easily skirt the edges of the literary spectrum—or is it really just one job? Already the editor in chief of the ground-breaking, all-fiction Story Philippines, De Sequera will be wading into the thick of the sexy glossy frontlines as editor in chief of Maxim Philippines, which launches its first issue this coming July.**

The 38-year-old writer sees no disconnect in his double duties. "I feel I'm a patient and considerate editor of fiction," he explains wryly. "I respect the blood, sweat, and tears of the writers who have submitted short stories to Story Philippines, and I give them the respect they have definitely earned by being very collaborative with my edits. For Maxim? I'm sufficiently hot-blooded, and I eat an impressive amount of red meat."

With this diverse devotion as a writer, it shouldn't be surprising that De Sequera is the third of four children of the late Cesar de Sequera, who was a businessman and ran the same hardcourt as Caloy "The Big Difference" Loyzaga for the YCO pro squad, and Rosario, who is "the rock of the family."

Books exerted their unerring gravitational pull on De Sequera at a young age. "Reading used to consume me as a child. I read everything—comic books, the newspaper, encyclopedias, biographies, the classics, anything," he explains. "But I was the biggest fan of Charles Dickens. 'David Copperfield' is still my favorite book, as sappy as some might find it. He just strikes me as such a warmhearted writer."

### Freelance life

It was a strange twist of fate that led this Management Economics graduate of the Ateneo to the life of the freelance writer. "I knew I could write a bit from a young age because my teachers told me so. But I only seriously thought of becoming a writer in my mid-twenties," Sequera says.

"Many years ago, another Sunday magazine commissioned my youngest sister, Rosa, to write about her recent visit to Palawan. She begged me to ghost-write it, and I did—even if I had never been to that province. The editor liked it so much she commissioned my sister to do another article. That's when we both had to come clean, and that was also the start of my writing career."

After throwing himself into the world of freelance writing, Vanni got his first high-profile magazine gig as editor in chief of Manual magazine. It was quite a change of pace: "The experience was fantastic. And it was nice barking out deadlines to writers for a change!" Somewhere, a harassed freelance writer reads this and begins to plot his or her own revenge.

Then came two dream assignments. Story Philippines is larger than other magazines, and stands on uncharted territory as it publishes only short fiction, often parading a dazzling array of contributors such as Sarge Lacuesta, Vince Groyon, Dean Alfar, Marianne Villanueva and Gilda Cordero-Fernando. Guest editor for the last issue was advertising maverick Emily Abrera.

It was his old English honors classmate, Jade Bernas, who thought up the magazine. "Apparently, he had been carrying this idea around for seven years already, and had not found anyone crazy enough to work with him on it. He had not had any luck finding a publisher or editor willing to listen, so he decided to just have a go at it, *bahala na,* even if he had no publishing experience at all."

Despite the inherent challenge of selling an all-fiction magazine, De Sequera is pretty sure Story has some things going for it. "First of all, we are committed to providing a reading experience, not just a magazine. This is why we pay so much attention to the design and visual presentation of the stories, and go as far as presenting them with works of visual art and photography. We believe in celebrating and paying tribute to our writers' stories. And when you do that, the reading experience becomes entertaining as well. We want Story Philippines to be an entertaining magazine."

### Reading the ads

He's also quite proud of their unique story ads. "All advertisements in Story Philippines come in the form of very short, short stories," De Sequera explains. "Advertisers, I think, will really pay attention when readers of a magazine start to talk about the ads just as much as the content. Because in Story Philippines, readers really read the ads."

From the literati, De Sequera crosses over to the space under the bed of young men. When ABS-CBN Publishing acquired the local rights to Maxim, Sequera got a call from ABS-CBN Publishing exec Apa Ongpin. "I played it somewhat coy, but really, I had been a fan of the magazine since 2000. I've long felt that no other magazine in the world can make you chuckle to yourself quite as much as Maxim," he says.

Up to this point, the market for sexy magazines has been dominated by FHM Philippines for sometime now. But De Sequera, who calls himself single, has a rejoinder: "Maxim is actually the biggest-selling magazine worldwide by far in this category," and has wiped the floor with the opposition once booting up in the United Kingdom and the United States. "It decimated the competition," he says. "The Maxim look intensely flatters already ravishing women. It's sexy, but it's not about sex per se. It is never ever vulgar. We admire women. Sometimes we at Maxim will do pretty dumb things because of our fascination with women. But we don't objectify them. And we certainly don't disrespect them. You see, we want our wives and girlfriends to read Maxim, too!"

As can be expected, he's keeping the identity of their inaugural cover girl under wraps—well, sort of, you get the idea.

"Our cover girl, I'm afraid, is top-secret, and many rumors about who she will be are flying about. All I can say is that it will likely not be Emilia Boncodin. Seriously, our cover girl will be quite the revelation. This young actress will be ubiquitous—she already sort of is—but I guarantee you will see an awfully revealing side of her in the pages of the first Maxim Philippines. When the editorial team first saw the images of the photo shoot on a computer monitor, we burst into spontaneous applause!"

This double life doesn't mean that De Sequera has sacrificed his life to the writing gods—not yet anyway. "I once knew what those two words meant: '*pare* time.' Yup, those were happy, innocent times," he says. "But, really, I love hanging out with my girlfriend, Steph, who also happens to be the creative force behind what has been described as the 'sumptuously designed' Story Philippines."

### Shy side

One of De Sequera's great private joys is also being around a particular group of friends he has known for ages. "They're a stimulating, intelligent, and funny bunch. More importantly, though, they are kind people. I'm a bit on the shy side, but these are the people I can most be myself with."

With his juggling of a pioneering literary lighthouse and a glossy gladiator, De Sequera knows that it's a sweet life surrounded by stories and sexiness. It's already quite a rush, as he has learned to love "the adrenaline of beating deadlines," and hates, well, "deadlines." In that, he has his own story to tell—with a dream ending in mind.

"Is shooting Jessica Alba long-term enough? OK, maybe not. How about this—to write the Great Filipino Novel? In English. Because I have no plot ideas to speak of, and because I am what may euphemistically be called a 'mood' writer, the novel will be about a mildly gifted but notoriously procrastinating writer who goes through numerous plots in his attempt to publish the definitive Pinoy novel, only to find out there is no such thing. So he remains the editor in chief of the biggest-selling men's magazine in the world until he retires at the age of 80, whereupon he is enshrined in the Publishing Hall of Fame. It will be an event attended by a visibly wrinkled Jessica Alba."

Gargantuan: Mañalac with the Pen Pals Polka

RYAN LIM

# Still sweet and scooping after 18 years

*Before summer finally goes, have some of the Pen Lobby's famous ice cream concoctions—and meet the lady who makes them*

**WHEN she was a little girl, Annie Escueta Mañalac used to love to accompany her father, a cook in the kitchen of a Makati five-star hotel, to work. "Even as a child, it was my dream to work in a hotel," Annie says in Filipino, recalling the spotless environment and airconditioning that seemed to make the job so much more pleasant.**

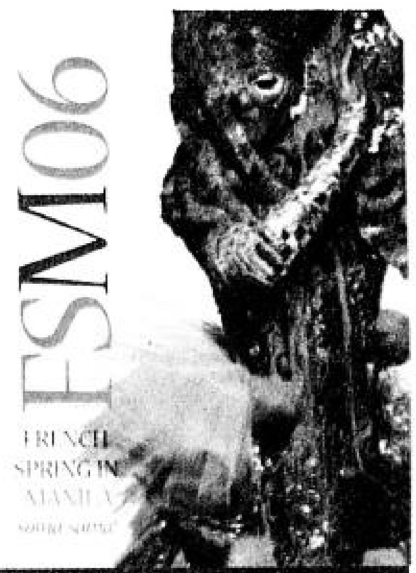
Annie did get her wish; after graduating from high school, she applied for a kitchen helper vacancy at The Peninsula Manila when she was just 18, and was soon working under then executive chef Robert Beck.

After 18 years, and after starting with fresh juices and later manning different food stations, Annie found her niche—creating the ice cream concoctions that have made the hotel's lobby famous. Working with a staff of four, Annie has to consider such factors as temperature, proper blending and the right mix of fresh ingredients for her work, especially for the Pen's homemade ice cream flavors, including the bestselling Choco Loco.

"You also have to know what will not go together—like pineapple and chocolate, for example." (Eeeeewww.)

Summer is prime time for ice cream at the Pen Lobby, and Friday and Saturday nights are packed with visitors seeking a gustatory escape from the heat. If there's a film festival or event nearby, Annie makes sure the team is ready to deal with the expected crowd. She gladly accommodates requests for special flavors or combinations, although chili and green tea ice cream are as exotic as she'd like to get.

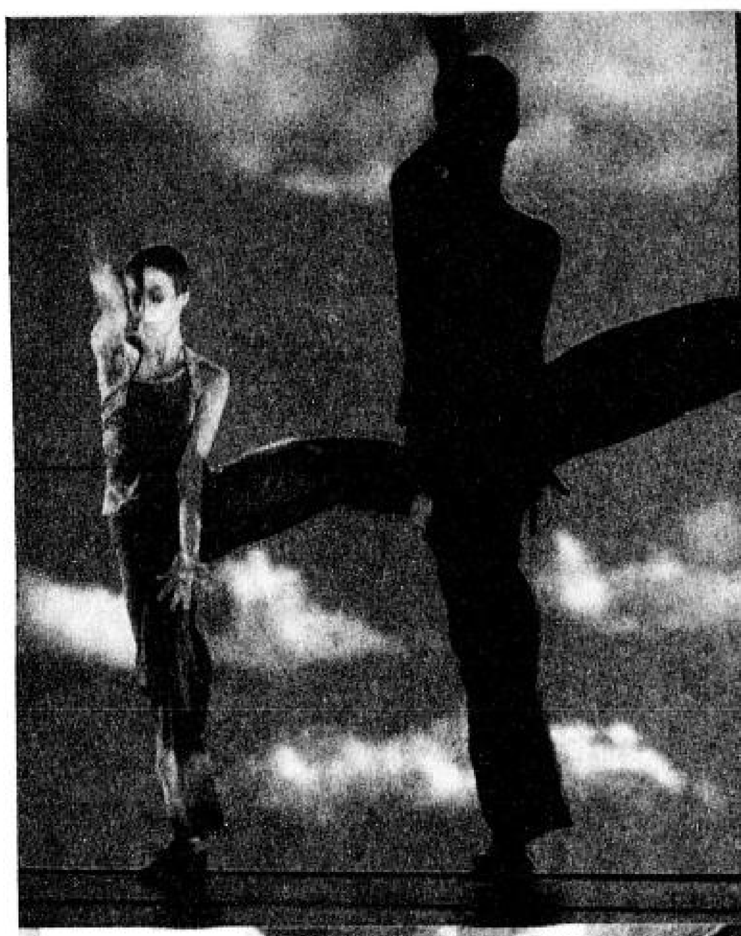
To page 7



THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN THE PHILIPPINES, ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE,
AND THE ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE D'ACTION ARTISTIQUE

# FRENCH SPRING IN MANILA 2006

ONGOING EVENTS



**Introduced in 1999 to strengthen ties between France and the Philippines through cultural events, the French Spring in Manila, organized by the Embassy of France and Alliance Française, has become part of Philippine cultural society.**

Opened on April 1, the season goes on to feature visual and performing arts.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

**Nemanja Radulovic** is one of the great talents that French Spring has brought to the Philippines. Selected as one of the "Rising Stars" in classical violin by the directors of prestigious concert halls, he has been winning the 1st prize in most international violin competitions. As he enjoyed performing for the Filipino audience during his first two visits (2003-2004), he is coming back this year, to perform accompanied by an equally talented pianist, **Dominique Plancade.** Philamlife Theatre on May 26-27, 8 pm.

## CONTEMPORARY DANCE

The Embassy of France in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines is proud to present **Allegoria Stanza,** a dance choreography for 7 modern ballet and 3 hip hop dancers, created by **Abou Lagraa** and performed by the **Company La Baraka.**

French, with Mediterranean origins, Abou Lagraa has recently shown his last creation in Opera de Paris. He will be conducting dance workshops on May 30-31. CCP on June 2-3, 8 pm (first part by **Myra Beltran** and **Paul Morales** with **"Sigh"**)

## FRENCH CULINARY WEEK

No celebration is complete without food. Two French chefs will prepare a special French menu at the Tivoli Restaurant of the Mandarin Oriental on June 1-2, at the Alliance Française de Manille on June 3, and conduct cooking lessons at De La Salle College of St Benilde, June 5-6.

Meanwhile, **Sommelier Selection** organizes a food and wine festival in collaboration with restaurants all over Metro Manila. A special selection of French wines will be paired with different dishes, for your gourmet pleasure.

## PHOTO EXHIBIT

**Juan Caguicla's Regards Croisés: Parispace/ Paristreet** is a distinctive vision of an often romanticized world. The exhibit sets beautiful panoramic views of grand Paris beside vivid close ups of the mundane and the everyday sights of the city, the people, and the streets. Printing work realised by Billy Mondonedo. Simultaneously at Greenbelt 3 and at Alliance Française, May 16 - June1.

For updated program, check out
**www.frenchspringinmanila.com**

**CHRISTIAN LACROIX**
**dialogues!**
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**NEMANJA RADULOVIC**
classical violin with
**Dominique Plancade** piano
PHILAMLIFE **May 26-27**

**COMPAGNIE LA BARAKA**
**Allegoria Stanza**
contemporary dance
CCP MAIN THEATER **June 2-3**

**FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
screenings and workshops
SHANGRI-LA MALL **June 8-18**

**4TH MANILA JAZZ FESTIVAL**
CENTRAL PLAZA, MARKET MARKET!
FORT BONIFACIO **June 16**

**PAGHIHINTAY KAY GODOT**
Play by Samuel Beckett
directed by **Alain Timar**
CCP LITTLE THEATER **June 22-25**

**ETCHINGS 10 french artists**
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE
**April 19-May 4**

**REGARDS CROISES:**
**PARISPACE/PARISTREET**
photos of Parisian daily life by
**Juan Caguicla**
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE/
GREENBELT 3/ **May 16-June 1**

**CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS**
Photos of French clowns' travel in the Philippines ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE/GREENBELT 3/ **June 5-22**

**FRENCH CUISINE WEEK**
with French chefs
MANDARIN ORIENTAL, ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MANILLE, COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE **June 1-6**

**SOMMELIER FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL**
10 RESTAURANTS IN METRO MANILA
**June**

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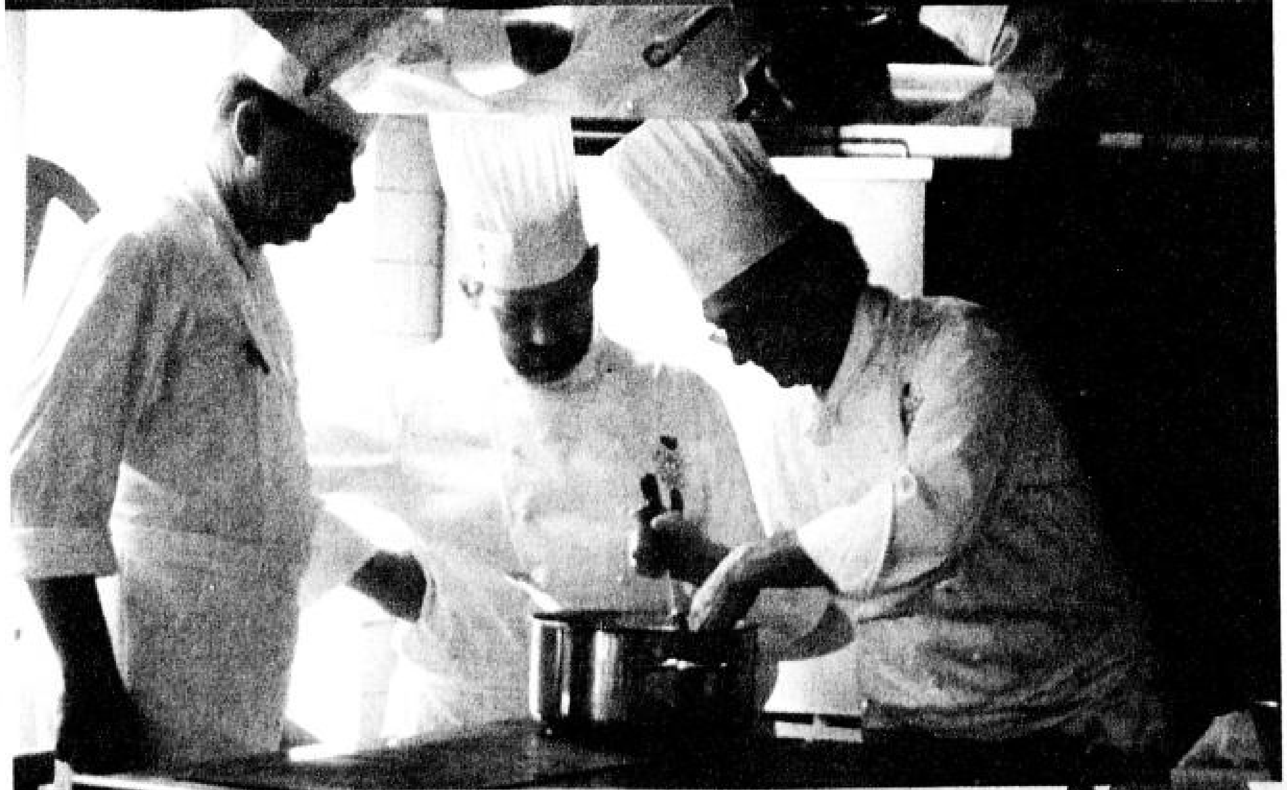

Alliance Française de Manille Globe PLATINUM LAFARGE SEMENTO

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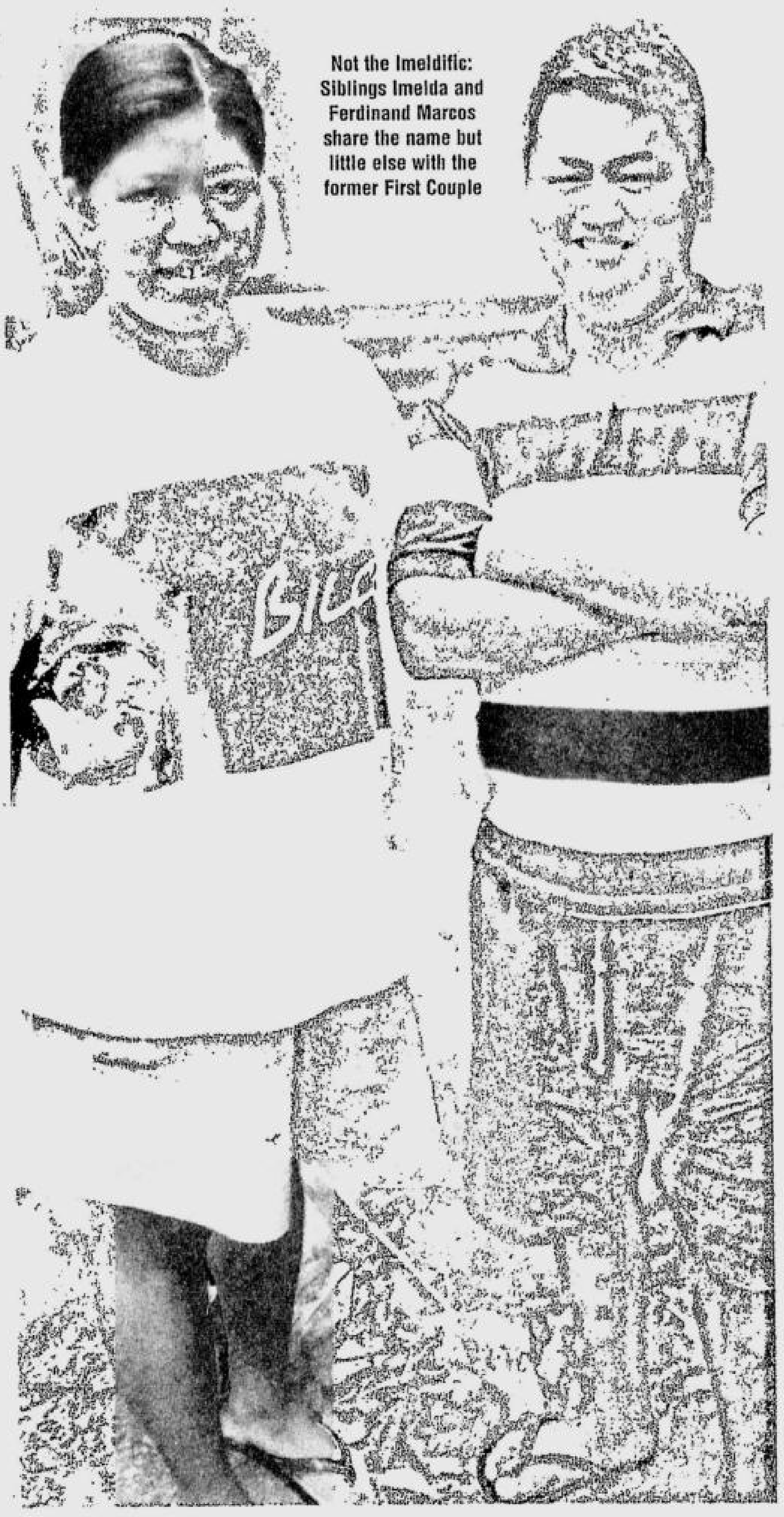
**Twists of Fate**

*by Gladdys Talip*

# The other Imelda Marcos

**Put yourself in her shoes: She shares the same name as the Imeldific, down to her middle initial; her brother's name is Ferdinand and his fianceé Imelda**



ROMY HOMILLADA

**Not the Imeldific: Siblings Imelda and Ferdinand Marcos share the name but little else with the former First Couple**

**“HELLO? Yes, this is Imelda Marcos,” she answers in Filipino. “But I'm not the former First Lady.”**

**About three of Emie's phone calls every month would require this answer. She is, after all, a namesake of Madame Marcos, whose listed number in the directory has often been mistaken for that of the Imeldific.**

“We even have the same middle initial, except that mine stands for Rivera, not Romualdez,” says Emie. The calls can be persistent and exasperating, she says. There are even calls from upscale hotels and resorts informing her of their latest promos and inviting her to book early. Once she received a terse call from an insurance company offering to insure her clothes and jewelry.

Even more frustrating are the inevitable snickers that people try to suppress, often unsuccessfully, whenever she states her complete name. “I haven't met anybody who did not laugh at hearing my name,” she adds.

It was worse when she was still studying. She had always hated the the first day of school. Her name, Emie reveals, had never failed to amuse her classmates and even her teachers. If it weren't for her parents, she would have skipped every first day of school.

Eventually, though, Emie got used to the idea of people finding her name amusing. She found comfort in knowing that someone else is worse-off: her older brother, Ferdinand.

“At least when I get married, my name would no longer be Imelda Marcos,” says Emie, 30, with a shy chuckle.

But someone else would inherit her name: her brother's fiancé who, as fate would have it, happens to be named Imelda. The couple is finally planning to get married after three years of living together. “*Sige na, pwede ka naman tumawa, eh* (go on, you can laugh),” Emie says genially to this writer.

Emie recounts how her parents, Herminio and Erlinda, had thought of the advantages of being namesakes of such a powerful pair as the first couple of that time. The idea came to them when Emie's mother was pregnant with first-born Ferdinand and his twin, Manuel. When his wife was about to give birth, Emie's father told a military man that they're Marcoses, and immediately, he drove them to the hospital. At the hospital, the man barked orders to the nurses to attend to the Marcoses immediately, and the nurses did. Her parents

To page 7

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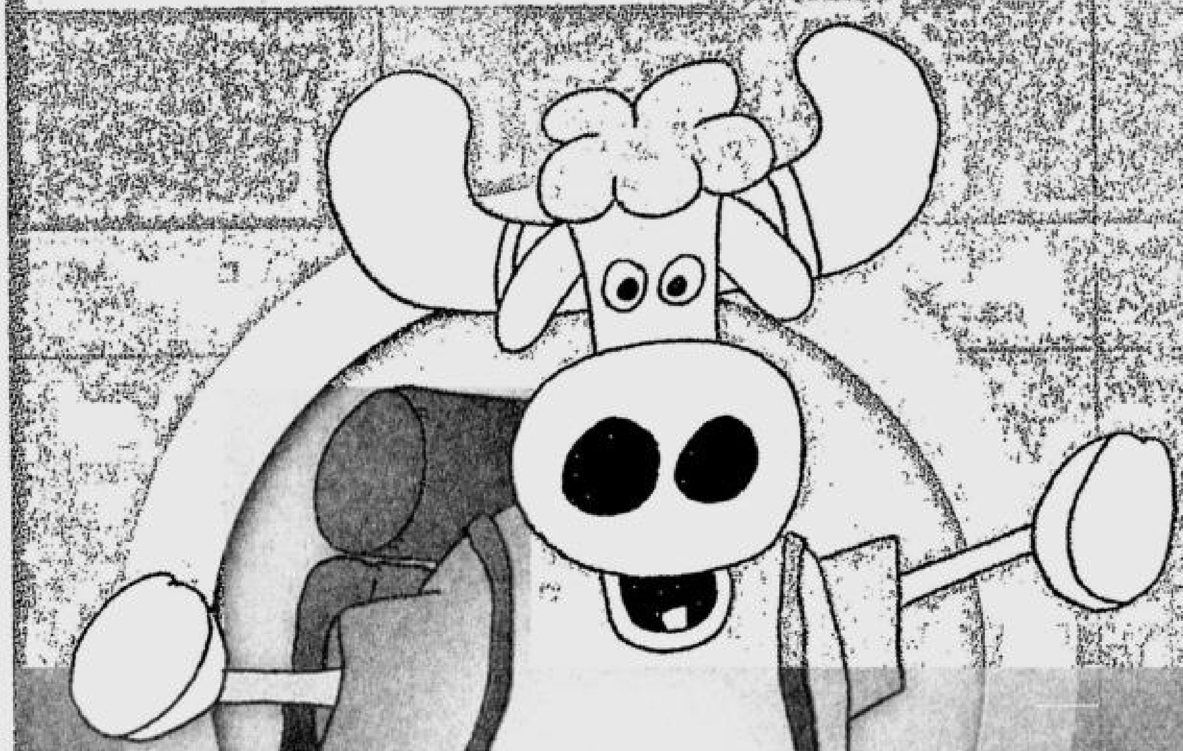

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*by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz*

**Thelma Chiong says she's seeking justice for her murdered daughters, not vengeance, and maintains that it's not un-Christian to believe in the death penalty**

# For this grieving mother, the quest for justice continues

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happier times: The Chiong family with Joy and Jackie (standing, left) with (clockwise) brothers Bruce, Dennis, parents Thelma and Dionisio, and youngest Debbie

**ALMOST nine years after her two daughters were kidnapped, raped and murdered, Thelma Chiong finds herself seeking justice anew.**

**This time, she's taking on President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo herself, and her recent decision to commute the death sentence. There will be no execution during her term, Arroyo had declared, a decision that, some quarters believe, was meant to appease the Catholic Church and rein in its campaign against Charter change that critics say could extend the President's term indefinitely.**

"I was in shock when I heard GMA's words, and during Holy Week at that," recalls Chiong, 53. "Instead of implementing the law, she decides to change it. *Di ba, wala kang masabi?* (I was speechless). And to think she'll commute the death sentence in cases already affirmed by the Supreme Court. Is she saying that the highest court of the land doesn't know what it is doing? *Aba, bobo pala, dapat i*-abolish *na* (If it's so idiotic, it should be abolished then)."

The commutation, cautions this national vice-president of the anti-crime advocacy and support group Crusade Against Violence (CAV), might prompt victims to take the law into their own hands. "It's like saying the justice system is useless because, after everything has been done to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt by the police, the eyewitnesses, the prosecutor's office and the court, the entire process could just be set aside with one word from the President.

### Mockery of justice

"And who knows?" Chiong fumes. "Today, Arroyo commutes. Tomorrow or next year, she might give the criminals pardon or executive clemency. So what's the point of going through all that pain, the trauma of a court trial, the expenses, the long wait for the verdict? By tampering with the law that prescribes the death sentence, the leaders of our country are making a mockery of our justice system."

Arroyo's pronouncement directly affects the seven men convicted in the murder-slay of Jackie and Marijoy Chiong, who, witnesses described, were forced into a car by a group of young men while waiting for their ride at the Ayala Mall in Cebu City on July 16, 1997. Days later, Marijoy's body—battered and bruised, her head wrapped in masking tape, left wrist handcuffed—was found at the bottom of a ravine. Jackie's body has never been found.

The men arrested for the crime were sentenced to a double life sentence by a lower court in May 1999. After reviewing the case, however, the Supreme Court last year upgraded their sentence to death by lethal injection, except in the case of one convict, who was a minor when he committed the crime.

Most of the convicted men come from prominent and influential families in Cebu, including Francisco (Paco) Larrañaga, a great grandson of former President Sergio Osmeña and related by blood to the political family that has held sway over Cebu for at least six decades. The others are Josman Aznar (whose family owns the Southwestern University, Sacred Heart Hospital, the Alta Vista Golf & Country Club, among other properties in Cebu), Rowen Adlawan, Alberto Caño (the driver of the rented van), Ariel Balansag (the van conductor), the brothers James Andrew and James Anthony Uy, and Davidson Rusia, also known as Tisoy Tagalog, who turned state witness.

"The suspects were amply represented by some of the best lawyers in the country. They had seven lawyers and three public defenders," notes Chiong. "Their lawyers even managed to get a temporary restraining order that delayed the trial for 10 long months. Despite that and because we're law-abiding citizens, we went through the entire process to get justice for Jackie and Joy," she recounts. "All these years I've worn a black T-shirt to mourn my children's death, until July 2005, when the Supreme Court changed the life sentence of the suspects to the death penalty." It was the Supreme Court that made the decision, she adds; why should the President now intervene?

She was not always like this, Thelma Chiong says of the brittle edge that, some observers note, has given her "the air of someone who has slain a dragon." Before she lost her daughters in one of Cebu's most heinous crime, Chiong describes herself as "a simple housewife" to husband Dionisio, who has retired from his job in a heavy equipment company, and a Catholic Charismatic who regarded her five children as her "treasured jewels."

### Each name a story

Their names have a story to it, she offers. Eldest son Bruce was named after kung fu actor Bruce Lee; second-born Jacqueline after Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and Marijoy, born September 8, the feast day of the Blessed Virgin, was christened Mary. Fourth-born Dennis was named after her husband Dionisio, while youngest daughter Debbie Jane has singer Debbie Gibson to thank for her monicker.

The fourth of 10 siblings born to customs employee and gravel and sand businessman Ernesto Jimenea and his wife Trinidad, Chiong finished a secretarial course at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion, her alma mater since her elementary years. She once worked as legal secretary in the law office of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, whose wife is said to be a relative. One of her sisters used to work as personal secretary for former President Estrada, which led to speculations among some quarters that she had used her connections to both Estrada and Davide to influence the court's decision and fast-track the promotion of the prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials involved in the case. She denies this.

Like most women of her generation, Chiong has a domesticated bent and trained her two eldest girls in the home arts. Jackie and Joy, she says proudly, took turns cleaning the house, cooking, and washing their clothes. She was very protective of them, Chiong confides, with Joy tiptoeing around her every time she joined beauty contests because she knew her mother did not approve. "But her teachers and classmates prodded her to join so she did, even winning the Miss University of San Carlos title once," she recalls.

They were like twins, she says of Jackie and Joy. "They were always together, they both liked the color yellow and shared the same clothes and friends. Why, they almost shared the same birthday, celebrating it just a day apart," Chiong says of Jackie, 23, a Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate and Joy, 21, a junior Business Administration student. Jackie was the more outgoing of the two; but both were "friendly, honest and obedient," she says. "They did not inherit my *maldita* (acerbic) personality."

The night her girls disappeared, it was raining hard, "like cats and dogs," she says. Joy had gone to school that morning with younger sister Debbie, while Jackie had passed by SSS to get a social security number. Though she was running a fever, Jackie had come home to help her prepare for a prayer meeting that afternoon, Chiong recalls. Later, she left for her job at an Internet café in Ayala Mall to get her salary. Their brother was supposed to pick them up later that evening.

### Fingerprint match

She didn't think anything was amiss when they didn't come home that night. "Our place gets flooded when it rains, so I thought they had stayed at their uncle's house," Chiong recounts. It was only when Joy's boyfriend came looking for her the next day did she realize that her girls were missing. Days of searching yielded nothing until the family was shown a newspaper item about a girl's body found in Carcar some 40 kms away from Cebu City. A fingerprint match later confirmed that it was her Joy. Recounts Chiong: "Because I was a devout Christian, I was afraid to ask God why—what was the purpose of taking Jackie and Joy in such a violent crime? I just prayed for Him to help me go through all the pain and suffering."

The family recovered Joy's body on July 24 and buried it on July 28. Chiong recalls: "I did not cry when my daughter was buried. I thought it was not tears that Joy wanted, but justice."

In the meantime, she continues, they had to look for Jackie. "We made posters and pasted them on electric posts around Cebu City. The search went from days to weeks to months and then years. We went as far as Mindanao. Though it's been nine years since she had gone missing, I know that God will answer all my prayers, He will work in ways we cannot see."

Although the suspects were arrested within two months of the crime and the trial proceeded at a relatively fast clip—hearings were set from 2 to 5 p.m. four days a week for seven months—Chiong recalls that the trial was in itself an ordeal. While the defense chose not to put any of the suspects on the witness stand, state witness Rusia recounted before the court how the two sisters were abducted, manhandled, raped, and in the case of Joy, thrown off a 150-meter cliff while she was still alive. "The worst moment for me was learning what really happened to my daughters," says Chiong.

### Rumors of bribery

Going to court can be very expensive, she adds. Although they had pro bono lawyers, they had to pay for the court's transcripts of records which can go for as much as P10 a page. The Chiong case reportedly had nine boxes of court records.

The trial also generated a lot of rumors in Cebu, including reports of witnesses being bribed. There was no bribery from their camp, says Chiong though she admits that they occasionally gave small gifts and some cash ("very minimal") to state witness Rusia, whom detractors had described as a drug addict allegedly convicted of theft in the United States. It wasn't something she liked doing, she says, having heard the guy confess to raping Jackie himself, "but I have to accept that through his testimony, we could get justice for my daughters."

The case has definitely changed their life, Chiong says. "We had just transferred to our new home in Talamban, Cebu when the crime happened. But after we buried Joy, my other children did not want to come home anymore. The house reminded them too much of their sisters, they said. I had to look for an apartment where we could move so that my children would finally come home."

For three years too, the family had

To page 7

## LoveNotes

*by Joe 'D Mango*

# A Subtle Obsession

*Sometimes I think that maybe he's just playing around, waiting for me to fall for him so he can take advantage and make me his "other girl." Sometimes I think he's just a very friendly guy,.and I'm the one who's putting malice into everything*

Dear Joe,

*I met Paul less than a year ago, and we got along well because we share a lot of common interests. Many conversations later, he asked me to be his date to a party, and I agreed. So we went to the party. It was a swell evening, and he was indeed a gentleman. However, I felt guilty the following day because I knew he had a girlfriend. He never mentioned it to me, but I secretly found out about it. I just let it pass because at that time, the events didn't mean anything to me. They were just friendly dates, so I put no malice into it. That is, until after a couple more months when I started liking him. A friend of mine even told me that perhaps Paul liked me too, because a guy wouldn't bring a girl to a special occasion as his date if she didn't mean anything to him.*

*I'm sure he loves his girlfriend, but he rarely ever mentions her. Sometimes I have to bring her up first and kid around just so the conversation would sound normal, though it's hurting me inside. Now we're still good friends, and he always asks me about my day, my love life, and other stories. Just last week, I told him that I now have a boyfriend. He teased me about it, and I teased him about his girlfriend. He sends me meaningful messages, and sometimes I even feel a bit of jealousy from him. He always compliments me, and when we're together he's very thoughtful and a little sweet.*

*I don't know, Joe. He leaves me hanging. I feel very excited and secure when we're together. Sometimes I think that maybe he's just playing around, waiting for me to fall for him so he can take advantage and make me his "other girl." Sometimes I think he's just a very friendly guy and I'm the one who's putting malice into everything.*

*I don't love him yet, but I think I'm falling for him. I've already tried ignoring him for a month, but it only made me more eager to see him. Joe, I'm in dire need of your help. What's going on between Paul and me, and what I should do?*

*Raine*

Dear Raine,

It is obvious that you are extremely attracted to each other, and I don't see anything wrong with it. It is how you deal with this situation that would make the difference.

It would be very difficult to figure out what his real intention is, knowing that he is still committed to another girl. The fact that he doesn't mention her to you means that he wants you not to feel guilty when you're with him. I believe he is intentionally trying to win your trust and your feelings.

He is actually doing a good job, because you are falling for him. What he feels for you may not essentially be the same as what you feel for him. He is probably just exploiting a window of opportunity to flirt but not necessarily commit to another woman. He could have told you about problems with his girlfriend if he really just wanted to win your sympathy. But the fact the he keeps her out of the picture shows that he may not have sincere intentions.

Raine, I'm actually more concerned about your wishing, wanting and waiting. You have entered into some sort of a subtle obsession with Paul. You can be dragged deeper into this if you do not become sensible about this whole attraction thing. It would have been a lot easier if he hadn't been committed to his girlfriend. I think what you owe yourself is the truth.

If you really like him, then let him know about it. But do not expect any return. Just let him know, and move on with your life. Let his actions tell you where you really stand. If he chooses you over his girlfriend, then let him prove his worth, but if he just flirts with you, then you'll know he is not serious and will probably leave you hurting in the end.

Raine, this is the time to let your mind and not your heart tell you what to do. Feelings do not think. Love with all your heart, but let your mind sensibly tell you the difference between what you know is real love and what you think is just infatuation. ▣

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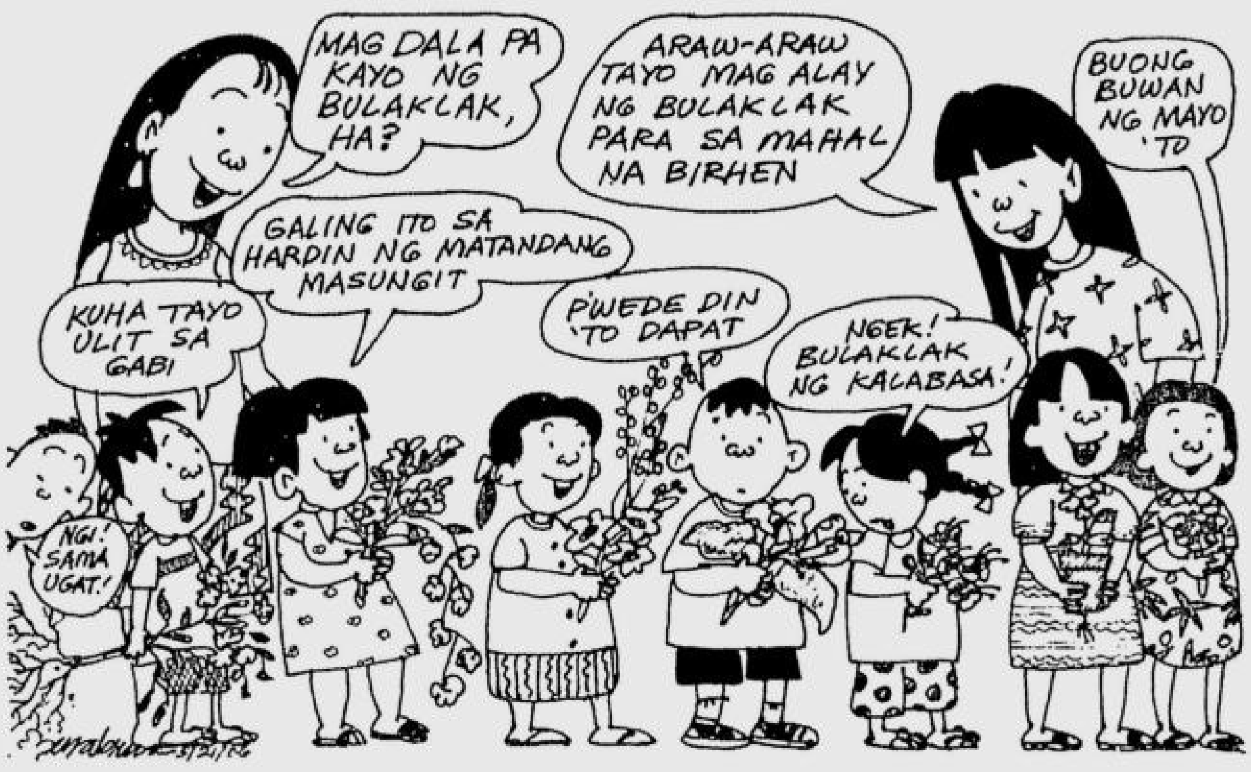
## Pinoy Nga!

*by Jess Abrera*

### Hijas de Maria


MAG DALA PA KAYO NG BULAKLAK, HA?
ARAW-ARAW TAYO MAG ALAY NG BULAKLAK PARA SA MAHAL NA BIRHEN
BUONG BUWAN NG MAYO 'TO
GALING ITO SA HARDIN NG MATANDANG MASUNGIT
KUHA TAYO ULIT SA GABI
P'WEDE DIN 'TO DAPAT
NGEK! BULAKLAK NG KALABASA!
NGI! SAMA UGAT!

# For this...*from page 6*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Finding strength together: The Chiongs today: Debbie, Dennis, Bruce, Thelma and Dionisio**

foregone celebrating Christmas, preferring to visit the cemetery during birthdays, Christmas, the New Year, Valentine's Day and anniversaries. "We put the name of Jackie on the tombstone because she had requested it in a dream, saying she was already dead," she adds.

Her other children suffered as well, says Chiong. Eldest son Bruce, she says, had to leave school and Cebu after receiving death threats from friends of the accused. He was away for five long years. Daughter Debbie also stopped schooling for three months and failed school that year, while youngest son, Dennis, took up criminology and vowed to take revenge someday.

But revenge is the last thing on her mind, says Chiong. "If I wanted vengeance, I could have done so at the start without spending so much for the trial. *Hindi lang ako ang papatay sa kanila, maraming tao ang galit sa kanila* (I'm not the only one who'd like to kill them; so many others are angry at them). But I wanted to undergo the process, I believe in the criminal justice system."

### Missing till now

She sees no contradiction between her Christian beliefs and her quest for the death penalty. Justice, she says, is different from forgiveness. "Don't talk to me about justice being tempered with mercy. *Bakit, naawa ba sila sa mga anak ko* (Did they have mercy on my daughters) whom they subjected to dehumanizing, brutal and sadistic acts? Jackie is missing until now. Now tell me the meaning of mercy."

She has yet to make peace with the accused, Chiong admits. "*Ang dami nilang* gimmick (they're into publicity stunts)," she adds, referring to the current campaign of Margot Larrañaga to save her son from the death penalty, claiming that he was in Manila when the crime happened and that they have witnesses and pictures to prove it. The campaign has turned global, with a signature campaign on the Net alleging bias in the court proceedings conducted by the late Judge Martin Ocampo. Because Paco Larrañaga is a Spanish citizen (his father being one), the Spanish government and the European Union have appealed to the Philippine government for a re-trial and the abolition of the death penalty.

But Chiong remains unfazed. Quoting the Bible, she adds: "Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's. We have a law that says 'death penalty.' Then we should implement that law."

Healing, she admits, will take a long time. "But moving on is not a choice; it is a reality," Chiong adds. "Every day I'm fighting my own battles, finding strength in the memories left by my daughters, thanking God for the 20 years that He has given me Jackie and Joy."

In the meantime, she spends her time attending various seminars on governance, justice-related topics and laws affecting women and children. Her various awards (which she conscientiously lists down in her resume) attest to her active involvement in various NGOs and women's groups, including the Provincial Women's Commission, Gabriela, Lihok Pilipina, Kauswagan, Women's Crisis Center and Aglow Women's International.

Christian music and Rod Stewart songs comfort Chiong, as well, but not as much as the one thought that has kept her focused on her anti-crime advocacy. "I know that one day, God will make all things beautiful in His own time," she declares firmly. ▣

# The other...*from page 4*

thus became diehard Marcos supporters by the time Emie was born.

"That's why they named *kuya* Ferdinand. It was just my bad luck to be born a girl, because for sure, I'd be an Imelda," Emie recalls, laughing in spite of herself.

After the ouster of the former strongman president, however, Emie's parents realized their mistake. At one point, she adds, they even asked forgiveness for having given her and her brother such a shameful burden of a name. Both of her parents are now dead.

I met Emie and her brother through the MRT and the telephone directory. I remember how I rode the MRT one afternoon and was people-watching when suddenly my line of vision was blocked by a man's paunch, over which hung an LRTA (Light Rail Transit Authority) ID. The name on the ID? Ferdinand Marcos. I think I snorted, failing to keep the laughter in my head. The idea came to me: If there's another Ferdinand Marcos, could there also be another Imelda Marcos around? I decided to look it up in the telephone directory and found Emie. So, what's it like to be another Imelda Marcos? I asked.

### Physical scrutiny

Quite embarrassing, says Emie, who tends a small stall selling softdrinks in their unpretentious community in Caloocan. She is perpetually being compared to the glamorous former first lady, she says. "*Siyempre, malayung-malayo ako sa dating Unang Ginang. Simple lang ako* (Of course, we're worlds apart. I'm just a simple woman)." She adds that the comparison is inevitably followed by an embarrassing physical scrutiny—from head to foot.

And that's where all similarities end. Emie looks nothing like Imelda. This namesake is *morena* (tan), stands at about 5'4", and is on the chubby side. Her facial features are that of a typical Filipina, the cheekbones not quite as pronounced as those of the former First Lady, who was once named the Rose of Tacloban and Miss Manila.

Luxury, too, is something alien to her. Unlike the original Imelda Marcos, Emie has had only one facial in her life—for an important wedding which she attended. She has no expensive beauty regimen either—just papaya whitening soap.

Her shoes would fit in a small closet, too. Unlike the thousands of shoes that Imelda Marcos has become notorious for, Emie owns only four pairs of shoes, mainly sandals and rubber shoes.

She is also far from being a jetsetter, unlike the madame. The farthest that Emie has gone is Tarlac, her father's hometown, which she visited when a close relative died. She has also been to Laguna where other relatives live, and to Meycauayan, Bulacan, where she once worked as a factory worker.

Emie spends most of her time tending her small softdrinks stall. When she's not socializing with neighbors, she is doing household chores in the house she shares with her brothers and niece. Like most house-bound women, she enjoys watching soap operas, especially Koreanovelas, after her chores are done. She also likes to cook and can whip up a mean *adobo*.

Emie has long gotten used to all the jokes about her name. "They tease me about being a dictator's wife, or having the airs of a queen. Some even pretend to borrow my shoes and jewelry," she says.

### No jewelry

She gets into the spirit of things, knowing that the reality is far more austere. She is self-employed, Emie says, and is saving for a caregiver training course she plans to take up in June. She has to save for months if she wants to buy new stuff like shoes and clothes.

"I don't even own any piece of jewelry," she says. "But even without material things, I'm contented with my life."

Her neighbors at Bisig ng Kabataan, Caloocan City would sometimes greet her, "Good morning, Madam!" She doesn't mind at all. She knows they mean no harm, but are mocking the former first lady. Sometimes, she'd indulge them, waving like the former first lady or sending out flying kisses. "*Pero wala po akong balak mag*-showbiz! (But I have no plans to enter showbiz!)," Emie says, raising her right hand in promise and laughing.

Showbiz, to Emie, is a big joke. Although she is a fan of soap operas, game shows and reality shows, she says she knows when the viewers are being patronized. "*Nakaka-asar nga eh, parang minamaliit naman ang taste at* IQ *ng masa* (It's annoying that the shows seem to belittle the taste and IQ of the masses)," Emie says. "*Mababa ang tingin nila sa amin, kaya minsan, parang ang baba rin ng tingin ko sa sarili* (They look down on us, so sometimes, I also look down on myself).

But such dark thoughts do not daunt her. She'd rather live a peaceful life, blessed with good health and a stable income, she says, hopefully abroad. Never mind that she was once duped into paying good money for a crash course on learning Korean, supposedly for a future job in South Korea. At the moment, Emie says, she'd like to make sure her tiny store flourishes.

And yes, she'd like to get married soon. "*Kailangan ko na mag-asawa!*" she says, adding that she'd like to make way for the new Imelda Marcos: her soon-to-be sister-in-law. ▣

# Still...*from page 4*

Annie says she enjoys garnishing the ice cream creations, which are based on standards set by the Pen's pastry chef, Bernd Beitmann. Bestsellers include the *Halo-Halo Harana* and the gargantuan 18-scoop Pen Pals Polka.

How's this for trivia: The Lobby serves some 7,300 *Halo-Halo* orders a year, using half a ton of ube ice cream and 1.8 tons of shaved ice. The Pen Pals Polka also includes fruit, waffle sticks, the signature chocolate cello atop the pile, and 15 marshmallows. Annie recalls once stepping out of the kitchen to catch a glimpse of a customer, a portly Chinese fellow, who ate the darn thing *all by himself.*

A wife and mom—her husband is a former Pen waiter now working in Dubai—Annie spends her Sundays with her kids and one grandchild, and confesses she doesn't have to serve ice cream too fancy for her children to enjoy them. She'd be glad to learn to cook other things, but admits Pinoy food is still her favorite. Her own favorite flavor of ice cream: *halo-halo,* chock-ful of ingredients like *nata de coco* (coconut gel) and jackfruit. "Pinoy *pa rin!*" she declares.

**ABH**

# Experience 3G phenomenon at Smart Wireless Centers

EXPERIENCE AND DISCOVER THE great possibilities presented by 3G-Smart's latest and most innovative to date when you visit a Smart Wireless Center nearest you. Since its launch last February, over 25 wireless centers have been conducting live demonstrations on the Smart 3G services which include video calling, video streaming and high-speed Internet browsing.

Dubbed as the next best thing in telecommunications, Smart 3G has attracted hordes of interested subscribers who flock to wireless centers to experience its services. Rina Ng, a businesswoman and a newlywed, says she was so excited at the prospect of making a video call that she bought a 3G-enabled cell phone as early as last year. Since then, she anticipated the day when 3G would be available in the country. As soon as she found out that Smart is offering the technology, she rushed to a Smart Wireless Center to become a subscriber. Now, she and her husband are both Smart subscribers who appreciate even the simplest wonders of 3G. "We enjoy video calling each other during break time at work," she shares.

One loyal Smart subscriber relates that he used to frequent the Smart wireless center near his office to learn all the features of the 3G-enabled phone that he was eyeing. "For almost a month, I was visiting the Smart wireless center with the help of the approachable and knowledgeable Smart 3G demo staff, I became an expert in operating the 3G features of the phone even before I bought it," he relates.

The potential of 3G is vast and everyone is welcome to experience it at Smart wireless centers in key cities. So, visit one nearest you and let us welcome you to the amazing world of Smart 3G.

Smart live 3G demos are conducted at the following sites: SM North, Ali Mall, Gateway, Sta. Lucia, Robinson's Ortigas, SM Megamall, Shangri-la Plaza, Festival Mall, SM Bicutan, Alabang Town Center, SM Manila, SM Southmall, SM Lucena, Robinson's Lipa, SM Dasmariñas, SM Cebu, SM Ilo-Ilo, PLDT Ponciano and Landco Davao.

**2006 AVA TURNOVER**

The Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), the self-regulation body of the Philippine advertising industry, recently formalized the agreement on the Araw Values Advertising (AVA) Awards turnover to the Advertising Foundation of the Philippines (Ad Foundation), the social development institution of the Philippine advertising and marketing communications industry. Signing the agreement are (from left): Johnip G. Cua, president of Procter and Gamble Phils, and Ad Foundation incumbent board secretary; Ma. Teresa D. Villanueva, senior executive officer of Jimenez/Basic Advertising and AdBoard incumbent board chair; book author and columnist Antonio R. Samson, president and CEO of Optimum Media and Ad Foundation outgoing board of trustees chair; and Ruperto S. Nicdao, Jr., president of Manila Broadcasting Company, Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas board chair and Ad Foundation trustee/ways & means chair. The AVA is the industry biennial competitive award for values advertising campaigns and materials that promote positive Filipino values, nation-building and social marketing endeavors since 1998. For 2006, the Ad Foundation will manage the AVA awards as a collaborative endeavor with the AdBoard, and subsequently thereafter, to continuously manifest the growing social responsibility of the Philippine advertising and marketing communications industry. The 2006 AVA will feature winners, and a telecast special by December 2006. All the 2006 AVA net income will benefit ad foundation, as a registered tax-exempt donee institution and business league, and its social marketing endeavors.

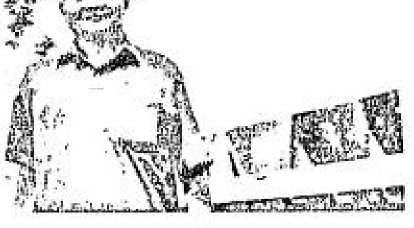
**PLDT PRESENTS IT ROLE ON BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN ENGINEERS' CONVENTION**

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co recently shared insights on the role of information technology on business operations in the era of globalized economy during the 55th IECEP National Convention: 'IECEP meeting the Global Challenge' of the Institute of Electronics and Communications Engineers of the Philippines. PLDT explored the three relevant technologies summarized in the acronym R.U.N., which stands for real-time connections, unwired access, and no capex operations. These technologies are expected to potentially have the most impact on employee productivity and operational efficiencies, allowing businesses to increase competitiveness on a global scale. Shown during the convention are, from left: Worker Joseph Casalme, IECEP program director; engineer Joel Marciano, IECEP past president 1995- 1997; engineer Edgardo Cabarios, IECEP president 2005 - 2006; Katrina Luna-Abelarde, PLDT AVP and corporate business head; Luigi Lopa, PLDT corporate business head; Rissa Golloso, PLDT corp marketing communications specialist; engineer Romulo Agatep, IECEP past president 1995; and engineer Fernando Morales, IECEP past president 2001.

# Celadon Residences San Lazaro encourages good chi

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC (CII) sought the expertise of the feng shui master to guide the development and layout of Celadon Residences San Lazaro, its first master-planned community in the city of Manila. Feng shui advocates that good fortune results when people and their dwelling places exist harmoniously with their environment.

As the respected geomancer tours the site, he quips, "There is immediately a good vibe when one comes in Celadon's premises. The entrance gate, which faces the East is also good," he says. He explains that with the gate facing the direction where the sun rises, the flow of good chi is encouraged.



COMMUNITY Innovations sought the expertise of Feng Shui master, Charlie Chao to analyze the layout of Celadon Residences San Lazaro. Community Innovations aspires to provide Celadon residents with a feeling of well-being.

Master Chao also points out the history of the current location of Celadon Residences is auspicious because it is at the center of the city. It is near churches, schools, hospitals, transportation areas, and businesses.

Master Chao also underscores three important factors in Celadon Residences that encourage good chi - safety, security and good lighting. CII's first townhouse community in Manila doesn't leave anything to chance when it comes to the security of the residents. A first of its kind security system will be in place to keep the residents safe.

Presented with the blueprint and layout of the residential, master Chao relates that Celadon Residences is more than 80 percent balanced, a rate higher than most residential developments in manila. "No property is perfect. A rating that high is already exceptional," he said.

He also specifically noted that, based on the layout of the homes, there is sufficient ventilation and lighting. He says that like all living creatures, man needs air and sunlight to stay healthy. These, thus, should be allowed to come into one's residence. These, according to him, help bring in good chi. Feng shui explains that rooms with insufficient light or too much clutter can influence negative chi flow.

"Community Innovations intends not only to build attractive homes but also to give people an environment that encourages a feeling of well-being, which can translate to good fortune," says Grace Sta. Ana, project development manager of Community Innovations.

With Celadon's first-rate amenities such a 25-meter lap pool, kiddie pool, landscaped garden, open play field and multipurpose court and the well planned townhouses, community innovations elevates the experience of living in Manila.

"Community Innovations recognizes that with the stresses presented by modern city living, it is important for people to return to a healthy and safe home to be nourished and restored. It is only by having a home that provides a feeling of comfort and security can one have the energy to take on the challenges of everyday urban living," says Sta. Ana.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land Company that builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyle and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

For inquiries call at (02)241-4976, e-mail at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit the website at www.communityinnovations.com.ph.

# SM: Focusing on the arts

MORE THAN JUST A LEADING SHOPping center, the SM chain of malls offers patrons new avenues to grow and hone their innate skills and talents. One field that SM has chosen is the arts. The primary aim is to put emphasis on the tremendous potential of its customers and recognize their efforts through contests and talent promotion.

An example of SM's initiative was the "Dress A Heart" contest that was held in all its malls across the country. The contest was a resounding success - with hundreds of patrons who participated. Participants purchased paper mache hearts that they could spruce up. There were no set limits in the design, contestants could be as creative as they wanted to be. The various entries were submitted a week after and were judged according to creativity (40 percent), concept (30 percent) and overall impact (30 percent).

The various art pieces presented different and original ideas that made it more exciting. Winners were chosen in every SM mall, which enabled more entries better chances to vie for three special prizes that awaited them. The first prize winners took home P30,000; a second prize winners grabbed P20,000 and third prize winners got P10,000. All the three winning entries were displayed at the particular SM mall they belonged for almost a month after the awarding ceremonies.

Another contest that artistic SM patrons should look forward to and join is the "Paint An Easter Egg" contest. Specially targeted for young shoppers aged fifteen years old and below, this contest will prove to be fun and enjoyable, as it will surely pick their brains and artistic inclinations in coming up with visual treats.

Like the "Dress A Heart" competition, the SM "Paint An Easter Egg" contest prizes are P30,000, P20,000 and P10,000 in cash.

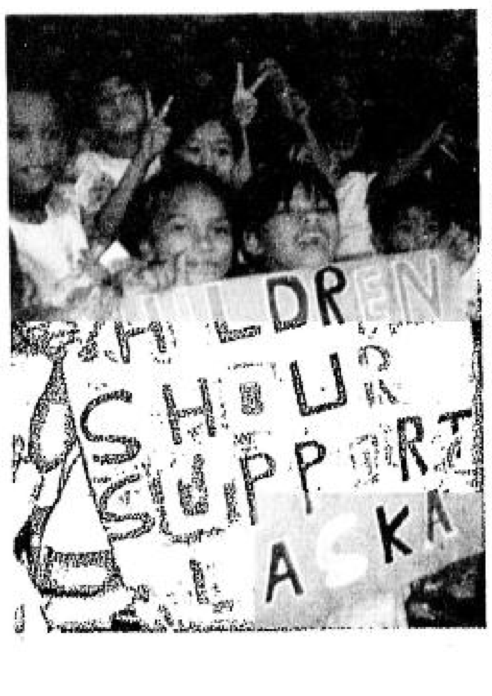
"This type of contest is a good opportunity for SM to serve as a venue for art excellence among our talented shoppers", said SM assistant vice president for marketing, Robby Decena. "We wanted to tap our customers' keen creative side and recognize them accordingly."

Indeed, SM continues to seek for new ways to make shopping more enjoyable for its patrons. The renowned shopping center is always thinking of bright ideas for the benefit of its valued patrons.

**NESCAFÉ CLASSIC FIRST PICK LAUNCHED**

Nescafé Classic First Pick, a limited edition soluble coffee made from coffee cherries which were handpicked by Filipino farmers during the beginning of the harvest season, was recently launched to the members of the media through a modern-day zarzuela depicting a romance that commences during the harvest season. Nestlé Philippines Inc officials Joey Quimbo, vice president for marketing promotions and events, Richard Penalosa, consumer marketing manager, Ernand Clemente, assistant vice president product specialist, Rudy Trillanes, senior vice president and factory manager, and Bruno Ollerhock, business executive manager, proudly welcome the new coffee product. Apart from its rich taste and aroma, the Nescafé Classic First Pick is also packed with anti-oxidants-tiny molecules that help neutralize the body's free radicals that attack the cell's membranes and cause oxidative stress that may lead to cancer and other age-related diseases. The Nescafé Classic First Pick is now available in leading supermarkets nationwide. It is available in two packages - the 50g box and the 200g jar.

**ALASKA ACES CHILDREN'S HOUR'S CAUSE**



Children from the Camillian Sisters, a Children's Hour beneficiary, showed their support to the Alaska Aces during a recently concluded game. This is in support of Alaska Aces' fundraising campaign, a unique scheme spearheaded by the Aces general manager, Joaquin 'Joaqui' Trillo. For every winning point they have over their opponent, a donation of 500 pesos will be given to the Children's Hour campaign. This will be carried out by the Alaska Aces through the whole Gran Matador All-Filipino Cup series. Children's Hour is a non-stock, non-profit organization that solicits support from individuals and institutions for the betterment of Filipino children. It has effected 164 projects, directly improving the lives of over 188,600 children all over the Philippines. You may call this number for information on how you may help, telefax (632) 864-1663 or visit, www.childrenshour.org.ph.

**FORD DONATES RANGERS TO DSWD FOR LEYTE RELIEF OPERATIONS**

As part of its commitment to corporate citizenship, Ford Group Philippines recently donated two Ford Ranger 4x4 pick-ups to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as its contribution to the Leyte Landslide relief efforts in simple ceremonies at the car manufacturer's Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant. The Rangers will be used in transporting relief goods as well as transport service to DSWD providing counseling for survivors. The vehicles were formally turned over by Ford Group Philippines' Don Gelinas, VP for human resource, Noel dela Paz and government and corporate affairs assistant vice president Cherry Ramirez. Receiving them from DSWD are secretary Esperanza Cabral, undersecretary Lualhati Pablo and property management division chief Nicomedes Sulier. Immediately before the turn over of donated Ford Ranger 4x4 vehicles, the representatives from Ford Group Philippines and DSWD signed a deed of donation.